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WOOD-BURNING SYSTEM PLANNED TO REPLACE ELECTRICITY BOARD

Belize City THE REPORTER in English 4 Dec 83 pp 1, 16

[Text] Confirmed reports that certain business interests in Belize have already invited tenders for the design of a wood-fired generating plant provide evidence that the secret plan to build a wood-burning power generating system to replace the beleaguered and bankrupt Belize Electricity Board is already well advanced.

This week the REPORTER received confirmation to its overseas inquiries that an American firm, Messrs Chas T. Main had been approached by a British firm to design a pulp and wood processing plant for Belize.

Barfour Beatty Power Construction Limited, a British company, has also been approached with a request for it to submit a design tender for transmission generation lines which would link Belmopan, Ladyville and Hill Bank at a cost of some \$30 million U.S.

It would appear from the evidence now in that the Hill Bank Agro Industries Limited, a subsidiary of the Bowen Group and successor to the Belize Estate and Produce Company, plans to construct a power plant capable of producing from 60 to 100 megawatts of electricity a day. Belize City currently uses less than 10 megawatts of electricity and it is doubtful whether the rest of the country is using half as much again. Industrial planners estimate that the country could double its electrical consumption in another ten years or more if the economy begins to expand, but Belize will be well into the 21st century before she can begin to fully utilize a 60 megawatt plant.

Other experts who have been asked to comment about the feasibility of a wood-burning electricity plant point out that these are expensive systems involving giant steam boilers and transfer systems. One Canadian study estimates that a 60 megawatt wood-fired power plant would require about a million tons of wood a year to feed it. These in turn would involve chipping mills and storage bins to keep the wood chips dry during half the year.

In a country with so many rivers there are about half a dozen locations for small but efficient hydro plants which could be connected into a central supply grid for a fraction of the cost of a comparable wood-fired plant.

The speed and relative secrecy of the plans being drawn up for such a wood plant has taken a number of well informed persons, including members of the Belize Electricity Board itself, by surprise. One well placed Belmopan source states that the Government of Belize has not been consulted officially about such a plan, though it is possible that individual ministers of the government may know about it and may even be behind it.

The area of concern, as far as the average Belizean is concerned, is the danger that such a costly, large and complicated system could be adopted for Belize through default or crass indifference without looking around for suitable alternatives. A decision to site a large wood-fired power plant in the woodlands of Hill Bank could prove as disastrous to Belize's fragile economy as the decision to build a new capital city fifty miles away from Belize two decades ago.

For one thing the technology of wood-burning to fire steam turbines for electricity is only now being seriously developed, and there are not many people in the world who understand how they work. Running a handful of diesel-driven generators is child's play by comparison. Another consideration: these wood-fired plants are not used as stand-alone plants but as complementary systems. If perchance something should go seriously wrong, the country should not be held hostage to the only powerhouse in town. Thirdly, even if economic and technological obstacles can somehow be overcome, Belize will want to consider carefully whether it desires to burn a million tons of its timber, now in private hands, in order to gain self-sufficiency in electricity.

The folly of prematurely committing one's country to a wood-fired electrifying system is even more apparent when one considers that the hydro studies undertaken by the United Nations for Belize will soon be completed. These will show what the people of Belize already know--that there is sufficient rain and a number of suitable locations to allow installation of a number of small hydro-electric systems with enough collective power to supply the country with electricity for years to come.

There is besides, another very promising alternative using the difference in the temperature of the deep sea water off Belize's Barrier Reef. Mr. R. F. Greenwood, C. Eng, MRTPI, MICE, Royal Engineer of Belize City has worked out a hydraulic formula for turbines which deserve very careful consideration.

To sum up, the frustrating situation in Belize City today should not impel the country into a headlong dash to any scheme which could cost the country a fortune in the long run and hold its development a hostage to more basic mistakes. The lesson of Belmopan should be sufficient warning against decisions based on emergency.

PROBLEMS WITH SUPPLY OF GASOLINE PERSIST DESPITE QUOTAS

Shipping Problems

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 9 Nov 83 pp 1, 5

[Text]

THE gasoline availability problem improved slightly yesterday but the transportation system would not enjoy normalcy of supply again until about next week.

This is because some of the oil companies have no stocks in Guyana despite the fact that the Guyana National Energy Authority has extended the quotas to ensure an adequate supply until year end.

One of the companies is now processing import papers, another is running low on stocks in hand and the strain to meet demand is now being felt by the two other companies.

QNEA Chairman Abel Felix stressed that his Authority can ensure quota allocations but has no control over the availability of fuel to be supplied to Guyana nor the shipping facilities to bring supplies here. "But once the fuel gets here we can persuade the oil companies to make deliveries to their outlets," Cde. Felix said.

He added that Guyana may now be feeling the effects of the unstable world market for petroleum products.

A survey revealed that Esso and Guyoil were out of stock with both premium and regular gasoline.

However their tank waggons were hard put to make sufficient deliveries and some of their stations

which ran out expect more today.

Texaco says it has no gasoline in the country and its stations do not expect any before next Monday. Some 352 000 gallons of gasoline should come by then.

Shell has distributed its stocks to stations and was making arrangements to import more shortly. A check showed that some Shell stations had only regular gasoline.

Texaco has also been granted an extension of its quota to bring in another 135 000 gallons of premium gasoline before year-end.

From mid-morning yesterday none of the three stations on Vlissingen Road had fuel. They had run out earlier. Only the Esso station is expecting today.

Esso at D'Urban and Louisa Row reported in the afternoon that they were still selling to a long line of motorists.

Texaco at the other corner — D'Urban and Limé

streets — had none. The last 1 500 gallons were sold out in two and a half hours Monday.

Guyoil in Regent Street was selling only regular early in the afternoon but they expected a supply of premium later yesterday.

Camp and New Market Streets Shell station was also selling only regular and had no indication when it would get premium.

Guyoil at Ruimveldt was expecting a supply during the day but Guyoil at Providence was selling both premium and regular.

Texaco at North Road and Wellington Streets will be out of fuel until Monday the earliest, the management said.

Assurances on Supplies

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 10 Nov 83 p 1

[Text]

THE problem of availability of gasoline for the transportation system continued to show some improvement yesterday as stations supplied by two of the oil companies tried to cope with the demand.

Unlike earlier in the week, commuters appeared to have encountered less difficulty in obtaining transportation.

But there were still long queues at some gas stations, and there were reports of rationing and special charges at some gas stations.

The latest information is that fuel for one of the other companies is expected tomorrow but it might not reach the distribution stations before Monday.

CSO: 3298/242

ENERGY CONSERVATION PROJECTS IN INDUSTRY UNDER WAY

Quito REVISTA ENERGETICA in English Jul-Aug 83 pp 91-92

[Article by Nicaraguan Institute of Energy, Systems Planning Division,
Energy Conservation Unit]

[Text] 1. Introduction

Energy conservation in industry grew to be an economic necessity as of the oil crisis of 1973, with the beginning of the price escalation that seriously affected the oil-importing countries. Nicaragua, a hydrocarbon importer, was using around 40 percent of its foreign exchange to purchase oil and oil derivatives.

Given this situation, it became worthwhile for the country to determine the effect that a reduction in energy consumption would have on the balance of trade--yet a reduction that should not hinder the country's possibilities for socio-economic development but rather guarantee production with a smaller energy consumption.

The Nicaraguan Institute of Energy (INE) is devoting all its efforts to obtaining more viable alternative solutions. In the face of slow-to-mature responses such as the development of new sources of energy and/or an increase in currently available sources, energy conservation constitutes a viable alternative whose effects can be made felt in the short term, with benefits for the economy as a whole.

Broadly speaking, it has been proven that, due to the low level of energy efficiency and due to energy waste, the country can obtain energy savings on the order of 10 to 20 percent, without major investments in changes of equipment or processes.

The activities related to energy conservation in the industrial sector had not been duly formulated and coordinated, despite the growing interest in this subject at the different levels of government and in the different industries, and despite the fact that through the national energy balances it had been detected that the industrial sector accounted for a large share of national energy consumption.

2. Background

In view of all this, the INE, with collaboration from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), carried out a study on Rational Use of Energy in National Industry. In elaborating this study, sampling was done in the cement, sugar, textile and oil industries, the results of which showed an inefficient use of energy, mainly on account of poor thermal insulation conditions, steam leakages, absence of controls, etc.

Based on the conclusions of the aforementioned study, the INE felt it useful to proceed with an in-depth study on the main industrial macro-consumers, in order to study the technical and economic feasibility of investments permitting energy savings therein.

3. Current Situation

The INE has proceeded to sign a contract with the French firm TRANS ENERG for the realization of a study on the Rational Use and Conservation of Energy in Industry, the major objectives of which are as follows:

3.1 To form and organize the national technical group in charge of planning and programming those activities related to energy conservation at the national level.

3.2 To obtain efficient and rational use of energy, mainly of oil derivatives, through the adoption of all the mechanisms necessary for that purpose.

3.3 To establish the measures necessary for rational energy use and savings through the modification of consumption structures and patterns.

3.4 To elaborate a short-term program of action for rational energy use and savings in industry.

3.5 To conduct 35 energy audits in the major industrial consumers of energy.

3.6 To propose energy-savings measures with different levels of investment.

4. National Energy Policy

The energy sector is a top priority within the Revolutionary Process; and within this context there exists Government willingness to spur, support and provide incentives for State or private institutions which dedicate their efforts in an organized and systematic way to energy conservation.

5. Major Problems and Limitations

The energy conservation problem requires support from both workers as well as management, but there is no energy-savings tradition in Nicaraguan industry.

The implementation of this program requires, to a certain extent, investments in foreign currency. This could be a limiting factor in view of the shortage of foreign exchange being experienced by the country.

6. Conclusion

6.1 The studies and projects related to energy conservation in Nicaraguan industry are in an initial stage.

6.2 Education and training of personnel is needed in each industry in terms of methods and the importance of energy conservation, in order to attain support and success in the program.

6.3 The results of the aforementioned studies and projects will make themselves felt in the medium term, and they should be supported continuously by all of the pertinent offices.

CSO: 3200/7

DIRECT PIPING OF NATURAL GAS TO PRIVATE HOMES UNDER STUDY

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 21 Nov 83 p 1

[Text] San Fernando--The direct piping of natural gas to houses for domestic use is one of several projects being considered by the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources.

This was stated on Saturday evening by Energy Minister, Mr. Patrick Manning, who said his Ministry had already done some preliminary work on the further utilisation of natural gas of which this country had an abundance.

Mr. Manning was at the time speaking at the 23rd annual conference of the San Fernando East PNM Constituency at the Pleasantville Senior Comprehensive School.

Other projects in the pipeline included the use of compressed natural gas as vehicle fuel; additional ammonia production facilities, and the manufacture of MTBE (Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether)--an octane-boosting gasoline additive which does not have some deleterious effects on the environment as lead derived from the compound now being used.

Promising

Mr. Manning said that all of these projects showed promising prospects, despite the technical and safety challenges must be carefully addressed in the area of piping of natural gas. [as published]

"What I can say is that the Ministry of Energy is considering a pilot project of piping natural gas to homes in the building of a new housing development. For a variety of reasons, the contemplated expansion of this Pleasantville housing estate seems to be well-suited as the location for such a project," he said.

Mr. Manning noted that compressed natural gas was being used as vehicle fuel in Canada, Italy, New Zealand and the U.S.

He said that it had the advantage of being less harmful to the environment than gasoline.

The Minister said a complete line of equipment inclusive of conversion kits for vehicles, as well as gas compressors and other relevant equipment for refuelling sites, were available.

Foreign Exchange

However, he warned that the foreign exchange cost of these items must be carefully weighed against the earnings that would accrue when the gasoline not consumed locally was exported.

In addition several other factors had to be considered before an investment decision could be made.

Mr. Manning said that an MTBE plant could prove to be an important foreign exchange earner in relation to the North American and European markets.

However, he noted that the necessary raw materials--other than methyl--were not readily available locally.

The Minister felt that discovery of a gas field in Trinidad and Tobago with high proportions of butane and propane was not an unrealistic proposition.

CSO: 3298/243

TEXACO PLANS TO CONTINUE REFINING OPERATIONS IN 1984

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 22 Nov 83 p 1

[Text] Texaco Trinidad Inc. (Textrin) is hoping that it would not have to close down its refining operations in this country by the end of this year.

But the company said yesterday, in response to inquiries, that "it is obvious we cannot remain in the present mood indefinitely."

Texaco made the statement when asked to comment on the reports circulating in the south that the company is planning to close down operations (refining) by the end of this year.

Questioned about its present refinery throughput, the company confirmed that the present throughput was \$65,000 barrels. [as published]

Asked about the up-to-date situation with the offer made to Government to sell the refinery and certain land holdings, the company said, "We still await a positive indication from Government as to their intentions."

Oilworkers have observed that a number of plants shut down about a year ago at the Pointe-a-Pierre refinery were not being maintained or repaired. One of the important plants, the lube oil blending plant, was still in operation. That plant supplies lube oil and greases to the local as well as the Caricom markets.

Mr. George Weeks, president general of the Oilfields Workers Trade Union, when contacted said he heard from "rumours" that the company was planning to shut down refining operations by the end of this year. He is investigating what he heard, he said.

Earlier this year Texaco offered to sell 75 per cent of its Pointe-a-Pierre refinery to Government for US\$200 million, in addition to some of its land holdings in the south.

Texaco has already retired some 800 workers, cutting down its work force to about 6,000 it was learnt.

CSO: 3298/243

CARIBBEAN RIGHTS GROUPS HIT U.S. PRESENCE IN GRENADA

Georgetown CATHOLIC STANDARD in English 6 Nov 83 p 2

[Text] In a joint statement the Guyana Human Rights Association and the Jamaica Council for Human Rights have called for "...the immediate withdrawal of all United States forces from Grenada."

It states: "The reasons offered by President Reagan are totally unacceptable as a justification of the invasion of the island.

"In the first instance evidence pointed to the willingness of the military dictatorship to permit US nationals to leave the island if they so wished. Initiatives were in progress for an aircraft to fly out foreign nationals after the military had extended an invitation for American, British and Caribbean diplomats to visit Grenada to enquire into the welfare of their nationals.

"There was also evidence that the sanctions imposed by the CARICOM leaders were taking effect, as shown by the hurried announcement by the military dictators of the formation of a civilian cabinet.

"In addition a range of diplomatic possibilities were available through Grenada's membership of both the Commonwealth and the Organisation of American States.

"Justification for the action taken was sought instead from the smallest international unit of which Grenada is a member, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

"It is catastrophic for the future of the region that the CARICOM group of countries could not resolve an internal dispute without inviting a great power to invade a member state.

"The regional governments responsible for the American aggression are also responsible, and will be so held, for respect for domestic and international law when the fighting ceases.

"Copies of this Press Release were sent to Prime Minister Eugenia Charles of Dominica (as Chairperson of the OECS), Prime Minister Seaga of Jamaica and Prime Minister Adams of Barbados".

CSO: 3298/244

CCC SECRETARY GENERAL EXPOUNDS STAND ON GRENADA, SINGH

Bridgetown CARIBBEAN CONTACT in English Dec 83 p 1

[Article by Rev. Allan Kirton (guest editor)]

[Text] It had been anticipated that the November issue of CARIBBEAN CONTACT would highlight the Tenth Anniversary of the founding of the Caribbean Conference of Churches (CCC). Celebrations (though there has been some uneasiness with that expression) were planned and preparations made to recall to the Caribbean, and the CCC, the essential task to which we are called and which we undertook in obedience to the Gospel mandate. We hoped to present a kaleidoscope of what the CCC had managed to accomplish in the light of our expectations of it.

Archbishop Anthony Pantin, one of the immediate past Presidents of the CCC, preaching at an Ecumenical Anniversary Service in Trinidad, did not neglect the fact that merely to survive ten years was, for an undertaking such as the CCC, a marvel in itself. In and through it, he said, Christian Churches which had hitherto regarded each other with suspicion and hostility had finally come, as the preamble to the CCC Constitution says, "to join together in a regional fellowship of churches for inspiration, consultation and co-operative action".

Instead of being able to reflect something of the modest sense of triumph as well as the humble rededication to our primary vocation, that November issue was marred by the ugliness of the arrogance of armed conflict. Little did we know that the end of ten years would mark the end of an era. Little did one dream that November 1983 would also mark the juncture at which Caribbean powers-that-be would attempt to undertake the dismantling of the CCC. And the major tactic has been an assault upon CARIBBEAN CONTACT and upon its indefatigable editor, Rickey Singh.

This paper deeply regrets the action of the Minister responsible for Immigration in Barbados which resulted in the abrupt revocation of Singh's Work Permit 20 months before it would normally expire, and the order for him to leave Barbados by December 3, 1983.

The revocation came at the high-point (or was it the low-point?), however, of a meticulously orchestrated public media campaign calling for Singh's

exclusion, reaching its crescendo in the fulminations of one columnist who trumpeted: "The Barbados Government would have done well to ask the whole foreign element of the CCC to leave this country."

It would not become this paper or the CCC, for that matter, to emulate the recent obscene attempts by those who despised him to now canonise Maurice Bishop. We will not, in our turn, pretend that we have always agreed with everything that Rickey Singh has written or been impressed by all aspects of his style. But they are his and he is entitled to them.

The reality that is the Caribbean demands that pluralism be one of the major planks of what it means to be democratic. Our understanding of 'democracy' does not permit us the right to annihilate someone with whom we disagree or someone whom we dislike or even someone who dislikes us!

About Rickey Singh the following must be said: We know him to be unalterably committed to the basic objectives of the Caribbean Conference of Churches. He never once in our recollection over the nine years of his editorship, permitted CARIBBEAN CONTACT to fail to appear--and on time! He is a dedicated professional journalist and, generally, a reliable staffer of the CCC. To quote the Press Release of the Guyana Human Rights Association, "his integrity stands in sharp contrast to the confusion of his detractors".

This December issue of CARIBBEAN CONTACT will resemble no other. The colour on the mast-head reflects the mood of the many individuals and organisations in the Caribbean and around the world, from whom telephone calls, telegrams, letters and other communications have come protesting this lamentable development.

This issue of CONTACT, you will note, is smaller than usual and somewhat truncated in its appearance. The material printed herein represents more or less what 'copy' was in hand at the time the Editor's Work Permit was revoked. The Board of Directors of CONTACT decided, however, that we should keep faith with you, not the least in view of the increase in price from this month. Such, however, is a part of the price that we all pay for exercising the right to freedom of expression and freedom of the press.

All over the Caribbean Rickey Singh, CARIBBEAN CONTACT, and the CCC have been the recipients of very special attention from politicians; from sections of the press whose columns often pulsed with "news" that was less than reliable, and opinions that showed little reflection; from some pastors who, for reasons best known to themselves were co-opted to the bandwagon and from a terrified public who, leaderless, hurtled helplessly into a hysterical hell howling hallelujahs all the way.

But however grievous may have been the lot of those recipients mentioned above, they were not the principal casualties. There have been other losses which we must mourn. And there are institutions and organisms which can be seen to have suffered injury as well.

The first concern is about "democracy". This term became the rallying cry of recent operations. In the name of "democracy" disagreement has been characterised as treachery worthy of death. For "democracy's" sake political independence has been cynically ceded by many and superseded by the need to ferret out and expel "communists".

To "preserve democracy" we may have blithely succumbed to an epidemic of myopia which, if unchecked, leads to a distortion of perspective. Yes, sanguine standard-bearers for 'democracy' may have used some quite undemocratic means for achieving their ends and thereby probably undermining what, we were told, was a part of the objective of the operation.

Regionalism

Another major casualty has been the whole concept of regionalism and the Caribbean integration movement. Recent rhetoric about the good health of CARICOM could amount to mere "whistling in the dark" since recent events and verbal exchanges will require much hard work to restore faith in the integration movement. For some of those who seem to see the need for this kind of 'pep-talk' are at one and the same time the architects of something called "CARICOM 2"--a just-in-case stand-by in the event that the truth turns out to be true.

Two other related issues arise for us. One is the trend towards a new version of security which offers to non-nationals or other foreigners in the region a guarantee of 'safe passage' so long as they remain silent or toe the line of non-disagreement with local opinion. The other is the role of regional organisations which appear to be under constraint now to speak, and presumably to act, only in accordance with the opinions of the immediate community in which they happen to be sited.

In this case, a problem arises for the CCC which, while studiously avoiding the pitfall of interfering in the affairs of Barbados, has come to be confused by too many with the Barbados Christian Council. Short of relocating in the middle of the Caribbean Sea (pardon the suggestion!) regional bodies will be hard put to fulfil their mandates bearing in mind the likelihood that the host community might become hostile if such regional bodies do not become localised in their mentality and thrust.

Several other issues compete for attention in limited space, but one that must claim the urgent action of the CCC is the critical need for an intensified Christian Education orientation programme. It is easy for the rank and file Christian to accept intellectually the teaching of Christ as we find it in the New Testament.

But recent events have shown that "when the chips are down" the tendency of many is to find solace, libellously labelled 'Christian', exclusively in the pages of the Old Testament--and nobody seems to get past the book of Psalms, the blood-thirsty, vengeful ones at that!

Of a truth the theology that we 'did' in the last four to six weeks in the region makes "Fashion Me A People" a more critically needed resource than we ever imagined. God help us so to orient those who use it so to encounter Christ in all His fulness and to internalise His way, that, specious exegesis notwithstanding, we might live in these Caribbean lands mindful of the fact that His right hand is writing, striking, healing, moving in our land.

Finally, reference must be made to the role of some sections of the media in this whole tragedy of errors. Surrendering the objectivity which, erroneously, we expect them to display, they became the uncritical channels of laundered "news". Very significant were the attempts, on at least three occasions, to convey the impression of vacillation on the part of the CCC.

For contrary to the false impression given that the terms of the CCC's statement of disagreement with the military intervention in Grenada were merely the opinion of a single individual or of a small select group of individuals, that statement was merely reasserting what the CCC's November 1981 General Assembly and the October 1982 Continuation Committee had resolved (see page 4).

The servants of the CCC have no authority to say other than what the representatives of Member Churches have stated without equivocation. Until and unless we have a change in this mandate, here we stand. We can do no other. God help us.

[Editor's Note: At the end of the above article, the paper carries the following under the heading "Note to Our Readers": "Due to a number of problems currently engaging the attention of the Board of Directors of Caribbean Contact Ltd. and the Caribbean Conference of Churches in relation to this newspaper, the next issue of CONTACT will appear in February 1984. We are seeking the understanding and co-operation of all our readers. We promise you a bigger CONTACT in February."

[In its customary page 3 editorial space headed "Our Opinion," which carries the name of editor Rickey Singh, the paper runs a blank column. Other blank spaces appear elsewhere throughout this issue.]

CSO: 3298/271

BAHAMIAN HEADS CARIBBEAN LABOR CONGRESS, MISSION TO GRENADA

Archer at Press Conference

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 14 Nov 83 p 1

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text]

TEACHERS Union boss Leonard Archer, the newly elected president of the Caribbean Congress of Labour, said today that the two most pressing problems facing labour unions in the region is increasing unemployment and hostility to the trade union movement by governments and businesses.

Mr Archer, who is also secretary-general of the Trade Union Congress, said that his unopposed election would mean that the Bahamas will be more involved in the Caribbean and certainly would grow in terms of trade union activities.

But the outspoken union leader said he is not sure about the advantage the position will give him in his fight for re-instatement to his teaching job by the government, noting that it depends on how willing the government is to resolve the matter.

The announcement of Mr Archer's election was made today at a press conference by TUC and the Bahamas Public Services Union president Arlington Miller, who is the representative for the Bahamas at the CCL.

Also present were Mr Frank Carter of the Airport Union, Mr Drexel Dean of the Water and Sewerage Union; Mr Maxwell Taylor from the Transport Union; Mrs Theresa Huyler, TUC treasurer; Mrs Earla Baines, TUC assistant secretary and Mr Kingsley Black, a BUT trustee.

Mr Miller told reporters that Mr Archer was chosen from among the participants to the CCL conference held from November 7 through 9 in Barbados to head the regional union grouping for the next three years.

He said that when the Bahamian delegates, which included Mr Archer, left the Bahamas for Barbados, it had no intention of putting up a candidate for the post.

But, he said, when they arrived in Barbados, the atmosphere was right and they seized the opportunity to have one of the Bahamian union leaders elected.

"And, I might also state that Mr Archer was elected unopposed," Mr Miller said. "All of the members attending were campaigning for Mr Archer even before we reached Barbados, which was very encouraging."

Mr Archer called his election a personal honour, also an honour for the Bahamas for one of its trade unionists to have been given the privilege of heading the labour organization in the Caribbean.

He said the non-salaried position would mean that he would be involved in all of the decisions in the CCL for the next three years. He said the CCL is run by a secretariat based in Barbados but when it comes to special decisions, he would have to be consulted.

He also said that should the Dominican Republic, which attended the conference as observers, become a part of the CCL, the regional group would include English, Dutch and Spanish-speaking people from the Caribbean.

He said the two most pressing problems facing the trade union movement in the Caribbean as well as all over the world, is the increasing unemployment brought about by world recession and the hostility to the trade union movement by governments and businesses.

"Unemployment creates problems for trade unions in many instances because it creates a large pool of unemployed workers and this weakens the

unions because were they to attempt industrial action to solve their problems, there are in many instances, a lot of other workers who could take the jobs of those persons who take industrial action," Mr Archer said.

He pointed to a case in the United States where Greyhound Bus Company demanded a reduction in its staff salaries and the workers walked off the job only to be told by Greyhound that it was hiring new people to replace them.

"With unemployment high, this is profitable," he said. "If there was a lesser degree of unemployment and the number of workers available to take jobs would be smaller, therefore the companies would not be able to make that kind of threat."

Mr Archer noted that unemployment in the region is high with the common estimate anywhere between 25 and 40 per cent.

"This presents a tremendous problem for trade unions and as a regional body, this is a problem that we will have to face and we will have to deal with," Mr Archer added.

He said that it seems that

most governments in the region see the trade union movement as a threat to their existence and usually where there is any repression, the repression begins by the attempt to restrict the activities of the free trade unions.

"Trade unions are seen as a threat and governments prefer to attempt to deal with them as though they were, in fact, a threat," said Mr Archer.

He said that since trade unions represent the workers who are a significant part of the population, it seems there is no reason why a trade union should not be allowed to speak out on behalf of its members to guarantee the protection of the jobs of its members and to request that they be treated as a partner by the government in dealing with economic matters.

"Business, of course, sees the trade unions as a threat because, according to them, all the workers want is higher salaries and higher wages, which cuts into their profits and I think we just had the president of the Chamber of Commerce making some statements about labour and about the various threats," Mr Archer said.

"And the president seems to have forgotten that in most instances unions will submit their contracts and will wait patiently week after week, month after month, for some response from management," he said.

He said that usually when the response doesn't come then threats are made and it seemed to him that "the Chamber President ought to really reason with his colleagues so that they respond expeditiously to the demands of the workers."

"If you have a contract that ends on a certain date, it ends at the same time for management as well as the union so if the union can prepare new contracts then surely management ought to be in a position to prepare its counter proposal for the union," he said.

Mr Archer also said that there seems to be hostility from the press as a lot of idle speculation has been going on.

"My understanding is that newsmen are to report news not make it," he said. "And some of the articles that have been written are really making news because what they are writing is not true. They are simply speculating."

Mission to Grenada

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 16 Nov 83 p 1

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text]

LEONARD ARCHER, the Caribbean Congress of Labour's new president, said today that the timing of the visit of a three-man fact-finding mission that he will lead to Grenada depends on the new interim government's settling into office in the eastern Caribbean island nation.

"When the fact-finding mission goes, it would go through the (Grenadian) government. So the timing will depend on the interim government," said Mr Archer, whose election as president of the CCL

was announced by the Bahamas Trade Union Congress at a press conference Monday afternoon.

Mr Archer said that the November 7-9 conference of the CCL held in Barbados passed a resolution asking that a fact-finding mission go to Grenada following last month's invasion by the US and six Caribbean nation forces, but could not say exactly when the three-man team will leave.

The Caribbean News Association (CANA) reported today that the Barbados-based

CCL will send a fact-finding team to Grenada to assess conditions there in the aftermath of the US-led military intervention.

Newly-appointed CCL secretary-treasurer, Kertist Augustus, 36, of Dominica, reported to CANA that the three-man delegation headed by Mr Archer, will leave for the Grenadian capital of St Georges after the island's new interim government had settled in and will report back to the CCL general council.

Other members of the team are Joseph Pollydore of Guyana and Hilford Deteurville of St Lucia.

Mr Archer said today that the fact-finding team will seek to find out what went on there, what is going on there now and what the CCL can do for trade unionism in Grenada.

He said that the resolution passed at the recent CCL conference is saying that it does not agree to armed intervention as a means of settling problems and the regional repercussion is that if another problem occurs in another country, it could be a lot easier to send in troops.

He said that Grenadians have a right to form a government of their choice without outside interference and that the Bahamian delegation to the conference supported the CCL resolution.

CANA reported Mr Augustus as saying that recent developments in Grenada over the past three weeks generated "tremendous discussion" at the CCL's three-day triennial congress held in Bridgetown, Barbados' capital, last week.

The meeting of the umbrella labour organization with a total of 26 affiliates and 500,000 members across the Caribbean, passed a resolution expressing the CCL's "deep concern" for the US-led intervention and called for the early withdrawal of all foreign forces from the island.

The CCL said the atrocities committed by the short-lived military junta that seized power killing Prime Minister Maurice Bishop on October 19 was worthy of the strongest condemnation.

It also said in the resolution that the intervention was "repugnant" to the principle of

sovereignty of nations and could have "far-reaching, negative repercussion" of a regional and global nature.

Mr Augustus said delegates at the meeting passed a resolution calling on member countries of the Caribbean Community (Caricom) to resist any move to restructure the 13-nation economic grouping and common market as a result of strains that had developed among member countries through differences on the Grenada crisis.

"We don't think that at this point in time that there is the need to restructure Caricom," Mr Augustus said.

The resolution also urged the Heads of Government to urgently convene a meeting to break the impasse and restore Caricom to what it was prior to the Grenada crisis.

Strains have developed in Caricom mainly as the result of conflicting views by member states on the mounting of the intervention for Grenada.

Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, the Bahamas and Belize were not party to the idea, but Barbados, Jamaica, and the seven-nation Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) threw their full weight behind the initiative and contributed soldiers and policemen.

Jamaica's Prime Minister Edward Seaga has instructed his Attorney General to give top priority to starting meetings between Caricom member states with a view to restructuring the 10-year-old community.

Guyana says it is not interested in the plan.

MEXICAN PSUM LEADER LAUDS NICARAGUAN PLURALISM

Managua 26. NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 26 Nov 83 p 4

[Text] A high-level delegation of the PSUM [Unified Socialist Party of Mexico] headed by its secretary general, Pablo Gomez, met yesterday with the board of the Council of State and the Foreign Committee in order to exchange ideas about Nicaraguan parliamentary activity.

After referring to the functioning and organizational structure of the co-legislative body, Rafael Solis, secretary of the Council of State, expressed to the Mexican delegation the desire of the revolutionary government to institutionalize the process of change through the elections planned for 1985.

Solis indicated that, therefore, the Council of State has taken on the task of approaching the representatives of all the parties in the country so that they contribute ideas and suggestions for this electoral process.

Then the representative of our colegislative body explained, in general, the parliamentary progress made by the revolution during the four periods that have just ended.

After participating in dialogue with the Nicaraguan Council of State, the leader of the PSUM, comrade Pablo Gomez, told the local press that he was very impressed by the results that the Nicaraguan revolution has achieved in respect and political pluralism.

Revolution an Example

He felt that the Sandinist revolution is an example for the continent because it is a revolution that tries to respect pluralism and give the Nicaraguan country a democratic channel that is very different from the traditional ones.

Another leader stated: I feel that pluralism is not opposed to the defense of the revolution because carrying out democratic transformations does not mean lowering its guard.

Pluralism is a lesson that Nicaragua gives to imperialism which spreads propaganda and distorts the reality of the revolution, trying to make people believe that here in Nicaragua human rights are violated, repressed, etc.

Referring to Mexico's solidarity, he revealed that Mexican foreign policy toward Central America responds to a historic tradition because Mexico has also been the victim of many U.S. interventions and stripped of a good part of its territory.

He stated: "This historic tradition is opposed to intervention. It is present in Mexican foreign policy which becomes concrete in the Contadora effort to impede direct intervention in Central America. If it occurred, it would have negative consequences not only for Central Americans but for the United States itself," the socialist leader warned.

The secretary general of the PSUM also emphasized that if there was imperialist intervention, the PSUM is ready to answer any call and show its solidarity in whatever field necessary.

Within this framework, he added: We propose uniting all social forces to demonstrate against aggression. We encourage the participation of technicians in support of the Sandinist revolution.

The Mexican leader evaluated the emergency measures adopted by the Government of National Reconstruction, the effort of the people in defense and their combative spirit in confronting imperialism.

The Mexican delegation consisted of: Pablo Gomez, secretary general of the PSUM; Gilberto Gallardo, head of the Political and Foreign Relations Committee; Eduardo Gonzalez; and Salvador Castaneda, federal deputy. During their stay in Nicaragua, they will meet with Cdte Bayardo Arce C. and with the minister of planning, Cdte Henry Ruiz.

MMV

ASO: 1248 258

CARIBBEAN FISHERIES INSTITUTE MEETS, STUDIES PROBLEMS

Constraints on Development

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 16 Nov 83 p 23

[Text]

TRINIDAD and Tobago, as the rest of the insular Caribbean, is in a position of disaster as far as the laws of the seas are concerned.

Mr Lennox Ballah said this on Monday, agreeing with the late Prime Minister, Dr. Eric Williams, who said this in 1975.

Mr Ballah, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education, was addressing the 36th annual session of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) at the Hilton Hotel.

At the same venue, Mr Mervyn G. La Croix, Director of Fisheries at the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Food Production, declared that there are several constraints to development of the small scale (artisanal) type fishing in the country.

Among these are:

(a) Insufficient trained staff at the Fisheries Division; (b) Different organisations involved in Fisheries Development under

Ministeries. For example, National Fisheries Company under the Ministry of State Enterprises; Fisheries Division under the Ministry of Agriculture; Co-operative development under another Ministry.

Priorities differ as a result, said Mr. La Croix.

Another drawback, he told the audience of Caribbean and American fisheries representatives, is that in this country, fishermen, with very few exceptions, are not properly organised, thereby causing difficulties in the consideration of their needs and priorities.

Training of fishermen, resource developments, processing and marketing, finance for infrastructure, and the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) are all difficulties facing Trinidad and Tobago fishing.

But, he stressed a ten-year development plan for fisheries is being implemented. And he hoped that with this, most of the country's fishing will be eliminated.

Trinidad Delegate's Prescription

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 17 Nov 83 p 3

[Article by Kit Roxburgh]

[Text]

TRINIDAD and Tobago has for centuries turned its back to the sea, depending, like other Caribbean islands, on agriculture for internal use and for export earnings.

Now, said Mr Lennox Ballah, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Trinidad and Tobago has turned to face the seas around it and found lucrative grounds — but like other Caribbean islands, the country will have little or no share in the wealth obtained mainly through sales to the United States. Recent sea laws work against small states.

Speaking at the opening session of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute's 36th annual conference at the Hilton on Monday, Mr Ballah, one of this country's experts on the law of the sea, added that in the absence of meaningful access to the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) resources of mainland countries like the Guianas and Brazil, there will be little production in the lines of fisheries and little to market.

SMALL HOPE

But there is only small hope for successful negotiations leading to this country fishing in lucrative waters, and Trinidad and Tobago will remain a net importer of fish rather than a net exporter.

Mr Ballah said the whole Caribbean Sea is a network of national jurisdiction; no pocket of high seas lies within it.

Consequently, lines of definition will be difficult and complex. For example, at no point can Trinidad and Tobago claim a 200 miles Exclusive Economic Zone. At its nearest point, the country is only nine miles away from the Venezuelan coast.

Explaining in detail the present laws of the seas, he stressed that in spite of the difficulties confronting Caribbean islands, any new laws will have marginal effects on the marketing practices of the Caribbean.

Then he said:

"I cannot help but agree with Eric Williams (Threat to a Caribbean Community, 1975) that in respect to access to living resources, the law of the sea represents for the insular Caribbean territories nothing short of disaster.

"However, it may not be too late to minimise or reduce the effects of that disaster."

He said that in view of the fact attempts to negotiate bilateral agreements have been by and large unsuccessful (with the possible exceptions of Cuba and Trinidad and Tobago), the insular Caricom States in the archipelago chain need to take a joint approach to negotiations over the EEZs of other Latin American and Caribbean States.

These States which can be approached, advised Mr Ballah, are Canada, the United States, Mexico, Central America, Colombia, Venezuela, the Guianas, Brazil and Argentina.

Canada appears well disposed to either unilateral or joint approaches by Caricom members, he said, before calling for a joint venture company similar to the West Indies Shipping Corporation.

"What seems to be urgently required is a meeting of Caricom States to co-ordinate such an approach and to work out strategies for achieving desired objectives. Caricom States may need to establish a joint venture company, WIFCO similar to WISCO, which would have the necessary capital and technology to exploit living resources in the whole area and provide adequate feed stock for existing processing plants in the region."

Mr Ballah said he expected, under the Caribbean Basin Initiative, fish produced in such a Caricom joint venture arrangements would have access to the US market and earn much needed foreign exchange, as well as providing nutrition for the people in this region.

ADVERSE RESULT

Delegates at the conference, which winds up today, heard Mr Ballah say that the new law of the sea is embodied in the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

While lack of sufficient information makes an assessment of the effects of the law on fishing and marketing practices in the Caribbean difficult, he said, the likely result will be adverse.

This is particularly so because of the 200 mile EEZ which gives coastal

States exclusive jurisdiction over 200 miles of living resources.

This has produced curious results. For instance, Barbados, which appears to import flying fish from Tobago, now seeks an agreement which would give it its former rights to legally fish off Tobago waters.

Trinidad and Tobago, along with Barbados, fished habitually in the waters of the Guianas and Brazil. They have now been deprived of access to these waters — although this country has a joint venture fishing agreement with Brazil.

This loss of access to rich fishing grounds has literally destroyed the fishing industry in Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago, said Mr Ballah.

Trinidad and Tobago signed the Convention of 1982, declaring herself an archipelagic State with a 200-mile EEZ.

CSO: 3298/244

BRIEFS

CARIBBEAN BANANA CUTBACK--Castries, November 29, CANA--Banana growers in the Windward Islands have been told to cut back production and improve fruit quality to help the industry recover from a slump brought about by falling prices and a glut on the British market. At the same time the industry's marketers in London, Geest Industries Ltd, are expanding sales drives and special promotions in Britain in an attempt to reverse the decline and have secured a contract to sell surplus bananas to Italy. These disclosures followed a weekend meeting to discuss the crisis in the industry between officials of Windward Islands Banana Growers Association (WINBAN), officials and Geest chairman Lenard Van Geest. Last week 370 tons of St. Lucian bananas were left behind, 167 tons in St. Vincent, while banana farmers in the Portsmouth area of northwest Dominica did not harvest bananas to help control the supply to the saturated British market. Van Geest said after the meeting that it was of utmost importance that very special consideration be given to quality in the production process warning that when fruit tonnages are at their highest, standards tended to decline. WINBAN has urged growers in the islands not to cut bananas that cannot be left unharvested during the coming weeks. This will help sustain prices in the traditionally unfavourable winter season, the association said. [Text] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 1 Dec 83 p 5]

CUBAN-PERUVIAN COOPERATION--Lima, 10 Nov (PL)--The third session of the Peruvian-Cuban Joint Intergovernmental Committee for Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation ended 3 days of deliberations here with the signing of a final act. The document was signed yesterday by Jose Fernandez Cossio, Cuban vice president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation, and Julio Ego Aguirre, Peruvian vice minister of foreign relations. The program agreed on includes the development of cooperation projects in different spheres, particularly in agriculture and fishing. It also includes subsequent contacts to identify industrial cooperation projects, especially in the metal-mechanical industry. For this reason, a delegation of Cuban specialists will travel to Peru. Other areas in which cooperation projects are expected to materialize include mining, public health, education and sports. There will be various contacts and missions for this. [Text] [Havana GRANMA in Spanish 11 Nov 83 p 3 7717]

CSD: 3248/258

BELIZE CITY COUNCIL ELECTION REMAINS IN SPOTLIGHT

Nomination Day

Belize City THE BEACON in English 3 Dec 83 pp 1, 10

[Text]

THE Belize City Council was formally dissolved on Wednesday, and nomination day has been set for next week Wednesday (December 7).

The date of the elections for the new council has not yet been announced, as this remains a government secret. But according to the Belize City Council Ordinance (Chapter 135), elections must be held not more than five days after nominations, which would make Monday (Dec. 12) the last day for the holding of the elections.

The PUP regained control of the Belize City Council in December 1980, one year after the big general elections "steal." The PUP win, which ended two terms of UDP control of the country's largest municipality, came at a time when voters were still smarting over the general election fraud, and boycotted the election by refusing to go to

the polls.

But Beacon's political analysts have reported a spectacular return of voter interest, and predict a landslide UDP victory.

Attempts by the government, which controls the election machinery, to spring the date of election on the UDP, will not have any affect on the projected results.

More Campaign Violence

Belize City THE REPORTER in English 4 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] Last Friday a group of PUP supporters from Rainbow Town in the area behind the Lord's Ridge cemetery used stones and brandished machetes in an effort to discourage campaigners of the rival United Democratic Party from entering the area.

Reports that three persons were arrested were later denied by the Police who on being called in confined their efforts to calming down the residents and warning them against future threats of violence.

UDP party workers say they have since gone into the area to talk to people and there has been no repetition of the threats against them.

Rainbow Town came into being as a subdivision in 1979 when the PUP regime faced with national elections, decided to carve out an enclave of PUP influence by putting in a number of government-subsidized low cost houses. The houses rent for about \$70 a month, but many tenants are so far behind in their payments, they will retain occupancy only if they can maintain a good relationship with the ruling party.

Some of these people compete among themselves to prove to the party and to their neighbours that they are the most loyal of party stalwarts.

During the 1979 general elections campaign some of these same people threw stones and wielded sticks to prevent the UDP candidate at the time, Mr. Ken Tillett, from canvassing in the area. Tillett lost the division by 584 votes to Mr. V.H. Courtenay.

Election Issues, Stakes

Belize City THE REPORTER in English 4 Dec 83 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text] In another ten days the citizens of Belize along with 96 resident aliens of the city will be going to the polls to elect a new City Council for Belize City. There are only two parties contesting the election, and the choice is simple--either UDP or PUP.

This newspaper cannot presume to tell voters how they should vote, but it may perhaps be useful to trace some of the events leading up to next week's election and to try to clarify what is at stake for the city and country.

To a greater extent than usual the outcome of this election will determine the future politics of Belize. The United Democratic Party, although in a favoured position to win, is really in a do-or-die situation. In a very real sense it needs a City Council victory to stay alive. If it wins the City Council election, it will be in a good position to go on to dominate

the national elections next year. A defeat for the UDP however, would devastate the two-party system as we know it and effectively silence the voice of the opposition for a long time to come.

The Achille's heel of the UDP campaign is Rainbow Town, the newly developed subdivision that takes in the area between the Lord's Ridge Cemetery and the river. Here more than a thousand voters live in subsidized government-owned houses. Last week some of these voters came out to greet UDP canvassers--with stones and machetes--and required police action to calm them down.

The PUP on the other hand, while thrown on the defensive in the current campaign and are battling against numerous scandals and divisions within the party, are incumbents who have all the resources of the Central Government behind it. The PUP have argued that a City Council that does not enjoy the support of the Central Government cannot do anything for the city because one cannot work without money. The UDP on the other hand point out that any City Council team supporting the Central Government must be committed to the policies of the government--policies which aim at the building up and development of Belmopan to the neglect of Belize City.

The logic of the PUP argument would be irresistible if one were to assume that the PUP hegemony in Belmopan cannot or will not be broken. And this is the very heart of the matter--because the UDP can only become effective at the municipal level if this power is broken.

For the PUP then, the City Council election provides the party with a chance to annihilate the opposition and scatter its forces as it almost did in the 1979 elections which, observers are now satisfied, were substantially rigged. For the UDP the City Council gives the party a chance to show that the people want a change. It also gives the party the chance to bring into focus the ideas and programmes which will enable it to take over the government if it can overcome the preliminary hurdle of December 14.

PUP Political Manipulation

Belize City AMANDALA in English 2 Dec 83 pp 6-7

[Unsigned column "From the Publisher"]

[Text]

Let us consider the police shotgundown on Saturday of Dale Fisher, 18, escaped prisoner.

I have not heard evidence to indicate that Fisher had a record of violence or was armed or attempting to resist police. He was simply running.

I do not know the youth,

but I do believe that the authorities, which is to say the politicians, had reasons to want to kill an escaped prisoner, and Dale Fisher ended up R.I.P.

The murder of Dale Fisher served two immediate political purposes. (1) There will not be any escapes from Belize City prison in the

next two weeks to embarrass the incompetent and corrupt PUP government before the City Council elections on December 14. (2) Members of the middle and upper classes who had been frightened by the numerous escapes from city prison will sleep more peacefully. They will say that the police, which is to say, the government, have come down hard and solved the problem.

But every action has a reaction and when prisoners begin to escape again they will be that much more dangerous because they will know they might be killed for escaping.

Now I want you to check out the media manipulation which occurred, backfired, and forced a face-saving murder.

Under ordinary circumstances, only THE BELIZE TRIBUNE, Home Affairs Minister Rogers' newspaper which is edited by his Justice of the Peace Ray Lightburn, has access to police and prison mug shots, which is to say, photographs of convicts.

But the Tribune's circulation is small and its credibility low. When five prisoners escaped two weeks ago, the police/prison departments, in an extraordinary move, provided one of the three free and popular newspapers with mug shots of four of the escapees, claiming they were dangerous.

In fact, they did not provide a picture of the most dangerous of the five, an Orange Walk con subsequently proven to have very powerful marijuana connections, because, said the police: "We don't have one of him." But the police records should have pictures of all convicts.

When the police photography department takes your

picture, it is usually after you have been detained and interrogated for many hours, and sometimes beaten. Even Miss Universe would look unkempt in a mug shot. In the case of the escaped prisoners, none of whom was a beauty to begin with, the publication of their pictures had the effect the politicians desired - the mug shots frightened the public.

In the next issue of the same newspaper one week later, issue published on Friday night, November 25, that newspaper exposed the incompetence and/or corruption of the police. That newspaper claimed that the same Orange Walk con, whose picture had been strangely unavailable, had been captured, handcuffed, shackled, and hospitalized, but then had vanished while an "unidentified" policeman "fell asleep."

The newspaper in question described the incident as having "done more to shake public confidence in the effectiveness of the police than anything in recent times, and has given Belize's lawmen some very red faces."

While we question the adjective "red", you understand the point.

Less than 24 hours after the publication of that newspaper, the police restored public confidence: they gunned down Dale Fisher, who, unfortunately for him, had no marijuana connections.

* * *

It is not the events we consider ominous, but their sequence.

Take, for example, the fact that only one man has been hanged in Belize in the last ten years. That was Jamaican national Seymour Thomas.

The date of his hanging was April 24, 1981, three weeks after the Heads of Agreement precipitated civil strife in Belize. The timing of the hanging was no accident.

The hanging was a message to those anti-government Belizeans who might have been contemplating insurrection. The PUP government was saying, we have the power to off you, and we are willing to do it.

The message worked.

Again, consider the problem of blackouts.

In the weeks leading up to the critical May 29 PUP convention this year, when Sylvestre was challenged by Musa, the city was receiving current 24 hours a day. A week after Sylvestre turn

ed back Musa's challenge, the city began experiencing its worst blackouts ever. The generators had been pushed too hard and broke down.

In the ten days before September 21 independence day celebrations, there was an easing of the blackout problem. The "solution" was an inordinately expensive Mexican generator, but as soon as the PUP celebrations were over, blackouts became very severe, again.

Notice these two weeks leading up to City Council elections. If the pattern follows, there will be almost enough juice. But after the elections, when the pattern holds, look out. We are foreseeing a black Christmas.

Court on Aikman Charges

Belize City DISWEEK in English 2 Dec 83 p 1

[Text]

Opposition charges that a number of voters in the Collet Division were registered under unknown addresses and that, in some instances, did not even exist, have been dismissed by the Court.

An Opposition team headed by candidate Derek Aikman had claimed that 14 people whose names appeared in the voters registration list could not be located in person and at addresses listed.

The team had allegedly combed the area thoroughly. The fourteen persons in question are: Shauna Middleton, Brenda Lee Gilharry, Louise Henderson, Philip Neal, Ulrich N. Young, Jewel Waight, Carl D. Swift, Eric Maine, Martina Novelo, Carol D. Mackinson, Sofia Smith, Stephanie I. Banner, Alscot Emerson, and Alford and Fredrick Oliver Moody.

At the time the matter was taken to court on Tuesday, the Opposition withdrew 8 names from their list and pressed their charges on 6. Chief Magistrate George Sirih dismissed the charges after the six persons appeared in court, proving that they were lawfully qualified to vote.

Elections Officers

Belize City THE REPORTER in English 4 Dec 83 p 11

[Text] The Elections and Boundaries Commission has announced the appointment of six election officers for the Belize City Council elections next month.

No date has been announced for these elections.

Mr. Owen Morrison has been named Returning Officer and his two assistant Returning Officers are Mr. Lewin Moguel and Mr. Kent Clare.

Mr. Norris Wade has been appointed Election Clerk and his two assistant Election Clerks are Miss Gwendolyn Card and Miss Geraldine Morris.

CSO: 3298/272

SUGAR FACTORY WORKERS STRIKE IN COROZAL, ORANGE WALK

Belize City AMANDALA in English 2 Dec 83 pp 1, 12

[Text]

FRIDAY, Dec. 2

At exactly 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, workers at the Libertad (Corozal) sugar factory clocked out and went home. The strike action, predicted by a union spokesman to last at least two weeks, is the result of a breakdown in negotiations between Belize Sugar Industries (BSI) management and officials of the Belize Workers Union (BWU).

A dispute began when BSI, after a study, decided to declare certain workers' positions as redundant. The BWU feared this would be the beginning of a massive retrenchment program which would require overwork on the part of certain employees. Management claims financial austerity is a must.

Libertad company officials have been using their engineers and supervisors meanwhile to act as crane operators, drivers, and security guards. A squad of riot policemen has been put on standby and stationed at the Libertad police station. A trickle of cane is being delivered.

On Thursday at 11 a.m. the workers at the Tower Hill factory in Orange Walk decided to go on strike in

solidarity with their Libertad brethren. 48 Tower Hill workers have continued on the job, but 300 plus are on strike. A platoon of Tactical paramilitary men has been placed outside the compound while striking workers are picketing, also outside the compound, and have chained the gates to prevent company buses from exiting.

It is estimated that there may be a total of around 700 workers on strike in Libertad and Tower Hill.

The strike comes at an especially inopportune time for BSI, which had committed itself to beginning the new Libertad grinding season on Wednesday morning.

What the climate will be like in Orange Walk next Thursday where and when Belize's first international FIFA soccer match is scheduled to be held is anybody's guess. Our reports this morning were that Tower Hill was still relatively calm.

GOVERNMENT BARS SCOUTS FROM CAMPOREE IN GUATEMALA

Punta Gorda TOLEDO STAR in English 4 Dec 83 pp 1, 4-5

[Text] A last minute cancellation notice was given to the Scouts of Belize who had been invited along with the Scouts of Central America, the Caribbean and Mexico to partake in the 12th Scouts Camporee to be held in Guatemala from 5th to 11th December. Belize had objected to the Scouts' participation when it was said that Guatemala would not allow Belize's Flag to be flown by our Scouts. But Costa Rica came to the rescue when she suggested that no flags should be flown, by any of the groups in order that the existing Belize-Guatemala Dispute would not affect the Scouts Camporee, since the Belizeans Scouts had made plans long ago when they had agreed to attend. The matter then seemed to have been ironed out; but on Thursday Dec 1st three days before our boys are to begin on their journey, it was announced that Belize would not be sending its Scouts to Guatemala.

It is expected that three Latin-American countries beside those of Central America and Puerto Rico, will also be partaking.

This is another incident which clearly shows that so long as there is no solution to the Dispute with Guatemala, Belizeans will not be able to partake in social, cultural, educational exchanges in Central America or to participate in seminars or exercises which are beneficial to the peoples of countries situated side by side.

Sometime ago, the PUP Minister of Health (a leftist) objected to a short visit by Guatemalan Dentists who were coming to cure us of toothache. Today they have objected to Belizean Scouts going to Guatemala. The PUP does not "extend the hand of friendship to Guatemala". Perhaps to Cuba, yes.

CSO: 3298/273

BRIEFS

NEW GUN LAW--A new law authorizes the Supreme Court to impose fines of up to \$50,000 for any person convicted of dealing in or possessing illegal weapons. The relevant section of the new law states: Every person guilty of an offence against this Ordinance shall, in respect of each offence, be liable, where the conviction is on indictment, to a fine not exceeding \$50,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years, or to both such fine and imprisonment. [Text] [Belize City THE REPORTER in English 4 Dec 83 p 11]

CSO: 3298/273

DISSIMILARITIES WITH ARGENTINA ON DEBT, FOREIGN DEPENDENCE

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 15 Dec 83 p 3

[Text] It is possible that some hasty observers may see in the attitude of President Raul Alfonsin, who has told Argentina's creditors that the debts of \$9 billion now due will not be paid, an example of "courage" and "firmness" to be imitated by the Brazilian government, to wit, the firm decision to proclaim a unilateral moratorium. Those who think thus are deceiving themselves totally. First of all, because this action is not a moratorium. If it were, Brazil would have preceded the Argentines in taking this step, since we have already failed to pay international debts for more than 90 days, and without any noisy fanfare, either. And we have done this by negotiating with our creditors, instead of simply announcing our nonfulfillment loudly. And secondly, because if President Alfonsin's intention is not to postpone short-term payments, but rather to refuse to pay what Argentina owes in the long run--which would in fact be a unilateral moratorium decree, the situation of the two debtor nations (Brazil and Argentina) would in no way be comparable.

They would not be comparable initially because of the fact that Argentina is practically self-sufficient in oil, a situation to which we are not even close, while no alternative energy source, such as alcohol, could eliminate or even substantially modify our dependence on foreign sources, resulting in our need to import oil on a large scale. On the other hand, Argentina does not have to import any essential agricultural products, such as wheat, and does not have as developed an industrial sector as ours, which also forces us to make substantial imports of raw materials and supplies. The situations of the two countries are then very different, in terms of self-sufficiency, which is the same as saying the level of dependence on foreign sources.

It is obvious that these differences have profound repercussions, when we consider the effect of a possible unilateral moratorium decreed by either one of the respective governments. Argentina would have a way to survive without foreign credit, but Brazil would not. All of our industrial park, vastly more powerful than that of Argentina, would be threatened with virtual collapse. And the economic and social consequences of such a development would be obvious to anyone with a minimum of good sense. In other words they would be nefarious and disastrous.

The decision by the Argentine president, which cannot be regarded as a unilateral moratorium decree, at least for the time being, was announced following another, clearly intended to have an impact, pertaining to the freezing

of prices for 40 days on some mass consumption products. There is no need for us to stress the patent artificiality of this measure. In a market economy, and Argentina is that, prices artificially limited by the government tend to explode, encouraging the development of an unchecked black market.

We must not confuse one very positive and encouraging aspect--the democratic legitimacy recently won by the Argentine nation--and we have already gone into detail here about the pertinent significance of a democracy in which there are solidly structured parties with a consistent body of ideas, as is the case with the party of President Alfonsín, which came to power through free elections--and the nature of these political-economic measures which he has now announced.

It makes no sense to say that, because it has been legitimately elected, the new Argentine government can adopt these "bold" measures. Similarly, and as a result, one must not confuse the possibility of a unilateral moratorium declared by ourselves, which is urged by many who pay little heed to its very serious risks, and the issues pertaining to the institutionalization of our political-juridical regime, proceeding along the path to the state of law and the democracy which all of Brazilian society wants to see definitively established in the country.

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CSO: 3342/39

S & T ALLOCATION FOR 1984 ESTIMATED AT 1.5 TRILLION CRUZEIROS

Brasília CORREIO BRAZILIENSE in Portuguese 13 Dec 83 p 11

[Text] The interim minister of planning, Jose Flavio Pecora, confirmed in Brasília yesterday that "there will be no lack of resources for the development of scientific and technological activities in the country." He announced that "plans for the investment of about 1.5 trillion cruzeiros in these sectors are of great importance to our national life in 1984."

Pecora explained that these expenditures will be made "by the federal government, to the extent of about 80 percent of the total," by state enterprises, by the states and by the private productive sector, in confirmation of the priority attributed by President Joao Figueiredo's government to science and technology.

The interim minister of planning said that a study of the development of the federal budget reveals the effort made by the federal government to strengthen the allocations intended for scientific and technological programs.

"In 1970," Pecora stressed, "these resources accounted for only 0.84 percent of the federal budget. Ten years later, in 1980, the contribution amounted to 2.1 percent. This year, these resources represent 3.5 percent of the total expenditures of the federal government, and the prospects for 1984 are positive, since the budget includes an initial allocation of 741 billion cruzeiros, which also represents 3.5 percent of the total."

According to Jose Flavio Pecora, the development of science and technology is the proper means of seeking the solutions the country needs for the reestablishment of economic normalcy and resumption of the growth process. "Therefore, there will be no lack of resources for science and technology next year," the interim minister of planning said in conclusion.

Agreement

The interim minister of planning presided at the signing, at the University of Sao Paulo, of an agreement in the amount of 804,500,000 cruzeiros, between the Funding Authority for Studies and Projects (FINEP), a public enterprise affiliated with the SEPLAN [Planning Secretariat], and the F. J. Zerbini Foundation, for the development of the "Aspects of Viral Hepatitis in Brazil" project. Its basic goals include the application of knowledge about the epidemiology of viral hepatitis in Brazil, greater mastery of the clinical

aspects of the disease, with emphasis on its natural history in our environment, and the development of new techniques and methods for the epidemiological and clinical-diagnostic study of the disease.

The project is the responsibility of the Liver Unit of the Department of Surgery at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Sao Paulo, but it is a national program with multidisciplinary and interinstitutional characteristics, in that it involves representatives of various professional areas and institutions such as the Sao Paulo Institute of Tropical Medicine, the Adolfo Lutz Institute, the Children's Institute and the INAMPS [National Institute for Social Security Medical Assistance] Heliopolis Hospital.

In his statement, Jose Flavio Pecora took advantage of the opportunity to explain and reassure researchers and his scientific associates, who have often indicated their concern about the resources needed to strengthen scientific and technological activities in the country. He recalled that special concern has been devoted to the process of allocating these resources, designed precisely to conform to the guidelines pertaining to the financing of science and technology established by the Third Brazilian Plan for Scientific and Technological Development (PBDCT).

Pecora emphasized that a study of the development of the federal budget reveals the effort made by the federal government to strengthen the funds allocated to programs in science and technology. In 1970, these resources accounted for only 0.84 percent of the federal budget, while 10 years later, in 1980, their role amounted to 2.1 percent. This year, the figure reached 3.5 percent of the total expenditures of the federal government, and the prospects for 1984 are positive, since the budget includes an initial allocation of 741 billion cruzeiros, representing 3.5 percent of the total, as was the case this year.

Another important aspect Pecora recalled pertains to the expenditures actually made on science and technology, including treasury resources and the funds allocated by state enterprises, the states and the private productive sector. In 1982, these expenditures came to about 350 billion cruzeiros, and this year it is estimated that they will total 800 billion cruzeiros. It can be foreseen that they will reach the figure of 1.5 trillion cruzeiros in 1984. Of this total, the federal government will account for almost 80 percent of the expenditures made, showing that it is the main agent for the financing and execution of research in the country, and confirming the importance and priority it assigns to science and technology.

Jose Flavio Pecora said that another fact reflecting government concern with guaranteeing the conditions necessary for the pursuit of the national technical-scientific training effort is the conception of and negotiation with the World Bank concerning a Program for the Support of Scientific and Technological Development (PADCT). Coordinated by the CNPq [National Scientific and Technological Development Council], this program is being drafted with the participation of various bodies in the scientific community and sector, and it is expected that the equivalent of \$370 million will be spent on the areas of concentration chosen for priority attention.

ANDREAZZA SUCCESSION STRATEGY, OTHER CONTENDERS' POSITIONS

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 11 Dec 83 p 4

[Article by Carlos Chagas: "The Candidates Are Beginning To Vie for Support"]

[Text] New developments with regard to the presidential succession may begin to occur in January, and there are those who say even by the end of December. Determined to speed up the campaign and to win some definition as to his potential, Mario Andreazza plunged a few weeks back into the task of winning as many supporters as possible among the delegates to the PDS [Social Democratic Party] convention, in writing, with signatures and all. He traveled through the states, and will travel through more, as his representatives are also doing, talking with federal and state leaders and parliamentarians. He is seeking to complete the list of those who support him in the shortest possible period of time, with the respective numbers of votes they represent. According to his aides, he believes he can win more than 450 votes out of the total of 956, not counting those who have come out "for the candidate named by President Joao Figueiredo." For the time being, he will not say how many votes he has won.

The strategy of the minister of interior has been defined: since the mountain will not come to Mohammed, Mohammed will go to the mountain, even if through an intermediary. Once the list is complete and his expectations confirmed, he will send it to Sen Jose Sarney, president of the PDS, asking that he make the logical and natural use of it, in other words transmit it to the president of the republic, the coordinator of the succession process, as an aid to coordination.

A new fact will be established, certainly the determining one capable of forcing the government to involve itself again, the spokesmen for the minister of interior say. Obviously, Figueiredo will not announce Andreazza as the candidate with his blessing and endorsement the very next day, but at least the stage will have been set for this action. In the name of PDS unity, the president would within a certain period of time be expected to advise, inform and appeal to groups tending toward other candidates, informing them of the results and seeking a compromise. He might perhaps even summon some of the candidates, not all, asking for understanding, given the figures. He would inevitably do so out of consideration where Aureliano Chaves is concerned, and even with some others, less discussed, of the likes of Marco Maciel and Costa Cavalcanti. But he would not concern himself with consoling Paulo Maluf or even Helio Beltrao. He is annoyed with the former

minister of welfare and social security, and continues to detest the possibility that he will be succeeded by the former governor of Sao Paulo.

In the midst of this effort to smooth matters over and to reach as large a total as possible, the campaign team of Andreazza also believes that the time will come for the president to sponsor the "succession cabinet." Here and there, ministers would be changed, with groups and even individuals being assessed in such a way as to secure substantial results. Perhaps at this same time, somewhere around March, he would deem it timely to make an official announcement of the name of his successor. And perhaps not, since there are those who urge instead a kind of broadening of the range of polls which would then focus on certain nonpartisan segments of society--bodies representing definite classes, organizations or attitudes. Or, who can say why not, even the opposition?

It is clear that the battle would not be won, because various complicating factors would still make themselves felt. Paulo Maluf would inevitably be the principal one, because he will challenge the slate and the signatures supporting Andreazza, if such take shape. He will say that many individuals signed and promised to vote for the ministers simply in order to continue to enjoy the benefits of power, and even to plan for even greater ones. When the time comes for definition, however, with a secret vote, they will stand with him. There is said to be no plan to prevent the former governor of Sao Paulo from going to the convention. The most the government would do would be to reduce his quotas, but never pursuing practices which could be regarded as violence. If he wants to go, let him do so and be defeated--that is the official reasoning.

After the convention, again according to Andreazza's aides, it will be necessary not to neglect the electoral college and to equip the suitable structures to guarantee final victory there. There is no fear that the supporters of Maluf or Aureliano Chaves would support a hypothetical opposition candidate, but preventive measures do no harm. It would fall to the candidate rather than to Figueiredo to coordinate the maintenance of unity in this phase, through government definition and promises of PDS participation in the federal administration.

Thus far we have described what the Andreazza supporters believe and what they are working for, but obviously, the whole picture would be categorically denied by the other candidates and their supporters. For example, Paulo Maluf continues to swear that the majority supports him, and that thus far he has won, although he cannot take the risk of going out, paper in hand, to collect signatures. He asserts that if the government knew about certain secret supporters of whom he is certain, it would tremble. Therefore, he does not reject the possibility of competing at the national PDS convention in September. Still bolder, his right-hand man, Caim Eid, has said there are already 500 supporters, and he predicts that by March they will total 600.

The partisans of Aureliano Chaves remain convinced that the succession is a very broad and complex problem which can only be resolved by the PDS convention. It will play the formalizing and even decisive, but never the only,

role. It will be necessary to listen to society, to allow it to participate in a process which can only give legitimacy and provide the future president with the necessary conditions for governing if it is broad and open. Helio Beltrao thinks the same. His name has been heard increasingly in business and intellectual circles, without however having impressed the PDS. In this connection, Andreazza and Maluf form one group, and Beltrao and Aureliano another. The latter are in a disadvantaged situation with regard to the convention delegates, but lead in the popular polls taken in the large cities. The former do not have such great public support, but may share that at the convention.

Each of these will have a special and detailed strategy, just as we have set forth that of Andreazza today. Or at least such a strategy will be in the process of development, since in truth, none of the four is throwing in the sponge and admitting a position inferior to the others. All four believe in victory, which in advance provides us with a single certainty among so many doubts: three of them will be frustrated.

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CSO: 3342/39

NUMBER OF STRIKES IN NOVEMBER DOUBLE THAT OF PRECEDING MONTH

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 11 Dec 83 p 62

[Text] The number of strikes last November was double the number for the preceding month, according to the preliminary data from the survey carried out by the Interunion Department of Statistics and Socioeconomic Studies (DIEESE). According to the study, there were 49 strikes last month, 31 of which occurred in the region of Greater Sao Paulo, while in October, 21 categories of workers struck throughout the country, the majority of them protesting unpaid back wages and demanding better working conditions or job stability.

In the 31 strikes last month, however, the main reason for the action was the wage increase which came to less than that in the INPC [National Consumer Price Index], as ordered by the government decrees, particularly No 2045, which was in effect until the middle of October. And this situation may recur in the coming months, despite the fact that the new wage adjustment system provides for correction of 100 percent on the index for the sectors earning one to three regional minimum wages, as various Sao Paulo trade union leaders understand it.

In the view of these leaders, the situation of the workers, particularly those in the low income bracket, is rather serious, since wage adjustments are falling far below the increase in living costs on the basis of the latest wage decrees. Furthermore, according to Argeu Egydio dos Santos, who is the president of the Federation of Metallurgical Workers in the State of Sao Paulo and a member of the National Working Classes Coordination Board (CONCLAT), the government indices do not reflect the real situation, since they are calculated on the basis of data from various regions yielding a national average. To this is added the fact that the indices have been "purged" of the accidental price increase factors, thus further shrinking the purchasing power of the wage earners. For this reason, the metallurgical workers' leader says, the number of strikes per enterprise, or even per sector, at the time of renewal of collective bargaining agreements, is likely to increase in the coming months, with the workers demanding wage increases.

The same view was voiced by Lazaro Paulino Maia, secretary general of the Sao Paulo Cabinet Workers Trade Union, in whose opinion the economic situation of the workers is likely to deteriorate beginning in January, when "the reserves and the 13th wage have already been used up and an increase is still distant." The cabinet workers' representative believes that the measures approved by

the government for holding down wages will not have positive effects in controlling inflation, which will contribute to an aggravation of the situation. The economist and professor Walter Barelli, who is the technical director of the DIEESE, also believes that the wage losses suffered by the workers have been accentuated, and along with the rising cost of living, will contribute to an increase in the tension. According to Barelli, the situation may deteriorate still further next year, with inflation in the range of 300 percent, if the government does not approve real control measures. In his view, this would be the best time for reversing this situation, since with the beginning of the bean, rice, potato and corn harvest in December and January, the cost-of-living increase is normally lower than during the other months of the year.

In the opinion of Joaquim dos Santos Andrade, president of the Sao Paulo Metallurgical Workers Union, however, other factors are likely to contribute to increasing the number of strikes and demonstrations of discontent. They include unemployment, which is likely to become more acute in 1984 as a result of the recessive economic policy adopted by the government. In the opinion of Joaquim Andrade, the workers are now fed up with the excesses of the authorities, whose decisions work only to the disadvantage of the wage earners. These include, for example, the changes in the housing financing system and the proposed amendments to the CLT [Consolidated Labor Laws] and the welfare system.

In the view of Gilmar Carneiro dos Santos, the vice-president of the Sao Paulo Bank Workers Union and a member of the Single Workers Federation (CUT) (he was one of the individuals whose mandates were subject to cassation), the results of the recessive economic policy, the wage "cudgel" and unemployment will be felt more intensely by the workers in 1984, for which reason discontent and protests are likely to increase.

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CSO: 3342/39

BRIEFS

BALANCE OF PAYMENT SURPLUS--The Central Bank has reported that in the January-November period, the Chilean commercial balance has yielded a surplus totaling \$974 million. It adds that during the same period, exports totaled \$3.542 billion, while imports totaled \$2.562 billion. The Central Bank report adds that up to 30 November, national reserves totaled \$1.998 billion, which means that during this year, national reserves decreased by \$579 million, \$21 million less than what was agreed upon with the IMF. Moreover, it notes that the balance of payments has yielded a deficit totaling \$582 million.
[Text] [PY211250 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 21 Dec 83 PY]

CSO: 3348/168

EXPORTS TO CANADA SHOW INCREASE OF 44 PERCENT

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 9 Dec 83 p 12-B

[Excerpts] Colombian exports to Canada during this year will show an increased growth rate of 44 percent and there exist numerous possibility for ample growth of commercial trade between the two countries.

Edward G. Gibson, Canadian ambassador to Colombia, indicated that his country is in a position to offer a significant market for unmanufactured and manufactured products from Colombia, and indicated that it is necessary to vigorously promote optional products such as tropical fruits and flowers.

During a visit to the offices of this newspaper, the ambassador emphasized the "warm" relations between Canada and Colombia, and explained that while there exists a consensus of ideals in the search for peace between the two governments, relations have concentrated on the areas of economics and technology.

According to Ambassador Gibson's statement, in the last 3 years Canada has supplied 10 percent of the total international aid received by Colombia, putting it, in that area, in the top ranks following the Low Countries and the FRG.

Since signing a general accord for technical cooperation between the two nations, Canada has contributed more than \$48 million--in the form of loans and donations--for Colombia's development.

Concerning this matter, the diplomat said his country's policy of cooperation is aimed more toward financial "than toward technical" cooperation.

Regarding commercial trade, Ambassador Gibson indicated that during the last 3 years relations grew by 225 percent, going from 134 million Canadian dollars in 1977 to 300 million Canadian dollars (approximately 21 billion Colombian pesos) in 1982.

Canada primarily imports coffee, bananas, petroleum, flowers and Colombian textiles, and exports newsprint, spare parts for cars, asbestos, barley, heavy machinery and airplanes.

END 0348/15.

SUPREME COURT ADOPTS NEW DOCTRINE ON INTERNATIONAL TREATIES

Reported EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 5 Dec 83 p 14A

(Text) The laws that violate precepts in international treaties signed by Colombia which congress has approved can be declared unconstitutional, according to a new doctrine adopted by the Supreme Court of Justice.

It was learned that the full court of the Supreme Court of Justice made this important innovation by deciding a claim against Law 42 of 1982 which determined the formation of unions by pensioners.

The court adopted the new doctrine by a majority vote. The text of the decision will be approved today when Judges Manuel Gaona Cruz and Alfonso Reyes broadcastly present the wording of the motive part of the decision for consideration.

However, it was learned that basically the Supreme Court of Justice feels that a law that violates a treaty can be declared unconstitutional by the court since it would be against a decision of the president of the republic, as head of foreign relations of the country, and the Congress of the Republic which has incorporated it through its approval.

Several judges explained to this newspaper that this would be the case in the decision of unconstitutionality that the Supreme Court gave to a decree-law issued under powers the congress granted to the government.

The new doctrine complements the previous decision of the judges to change their traditional doctrine that they have the jurisdiction to hear claims against treaties when they are presented in the interregnum between the approval of the agreement by the congress and the exchange or deposit of notes, depending on the case.

The court decision was made to resolve the claim made by labor lawyers Eusebio Castillo and Enrique Martinez against Articles 2 and 3 of Law 42. The plaintiffs felt that these articles ignored principles that were established in several treaties that Colombia signed on the organizations of pensioners which were incorporated in the country through Laws 26 and 27.

The Supreme Court of Justice, in full court and by a majority, adopted the new doctrine after wide-ranging discussions of the studies presented by judges Antonio Medina, Ferrer, and Luis Carlos Jaramila.

The text of the ruling will be revealed today. The laws cited were declared constitutional since it was decided that there was no violation of treaties as cited in the claims.

The new doctrine of the court has special importance. It will surely lead to broad debates since there could be a real deluge of claims against any law that goes against the treaties.

For example, with respect to extradition of nationals, there could be a claim against the laws that the government invoked to refuse to extradite alleged drug traffickers as requested by the United States based on a treaty signed with the United States.

Once before, to resolve a different claim against the extradition treaty, the judges of the court issued a vote explanation to reaffirm court jurisdiction over that matter.

Extraditions

Meanwhile, the country continues to wait for President Betancur and Minister of Justice Rodrigo Lara to decide on the request for the extradition of Carlos Lerder-Rivas. The Supreme Court of Justice said that the government has no other alternative than to grant extradition or denounce the treaty. In two previous occasions the government, with similar facts, refused the extradition of alleged drug traffickers to the United States.

Last Friday the Council of State delayed the decision on the request for the temporary suspension of the resolutions through which the government refused the extradition of Lucas Gomez Van Grieken and Emiro de Jesus Mejia. In order to comply with legal requirements, it asked the presidency of the republic and the Ministry of Justice to remit notarized copies of these acts.

The claims presented by attorney Jorge Edgardo Gonzalez Vidales basically state that the government violated the treaty and express laws of the Penal Code by refusing the extraditions.

It is expected that the Council of State will decide the requests for temporary suspension before the end of the year.

One of the beneficiaries of the official decision, Emiro de Jesus Mejia, was released by the criminal court judge hearing his case due to alleged lack of evidence.

The penal situation of Gomez Van Grieken will be resolved this week. The two were linked to the U.S. "Operation Swordfish" which was carried out in Florida. It discovered more than 20 people involved in drug traffic and laundering money.

END

DATE: 1986-1-19

GOVERNMENT RECOMMENDS CAUTION TO AVOID DEBT RESCHEDULING

Report: EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 25 Nov 83 p 33A

(Text) The Congress of the Republic can keep the government from asking for refinancing of the Colombian foreign debt if it feels that the conditions in the world financial markets are not favorable for that operation. The president of the House of Representatives, Cesar Gaviria Trujillo, spoke on the bill for law 29.83 presented by the Executive Branch to expand the foreign debt ceiling. He asked that the government be less enthusiastic about monetary and credit expansion without hurting the exchange stability of the country.

Gaviria Trujillo warned that the country might relax since the IMF has evaluated its economic management as good in the last decade, explaining that "it will not receive admonitions but unavoidable dictates in order to have access to external credit, letters of commitment and roads very difficult to travel initially as the Chilean, Brazilian or Argentine experience demonstrate."

"Keeping in mind the analysis of the difficult economic time now for both the international and national capital market, I feel that the goal that the government has outlined to obtain about \$4 billion without collateral is ambitious. It must be added to the \$4.8 billion that is the total amount requested by the government in the bill (for Law 29/83) in spite of the fact that the total from every source reaches \$9 billion. This means an average of \$2.4 billion per year."

No to Refinancing

"With respect to the refinancing figure that appears in Article 1 of the bill, the conditions under which the credits were agreed on prior to the authorization assigned in this law were better than those that can be achieved now since that was a period when the growth of our international reserves, the liquidity of the financial market and the conditions that prevailed in it permitted the country to sometimes renegotiate its foreign debt, obtaining better conditions. In other cases, it was able to pay the foreign debt and contract a new one to improve the national debt profile."

"Now that authorization is meaningless and there would be no sense in leaving it in the articles. It would be an escape valve to justify modalities of refinancing that might mean some improvement in the terms agreed on now."

"For this reason, the articles of the bill omit mention of refinancing which alludes to the intention to improve the financial conditions of the current debt."

Contracting of Credit

The parliamentarian observed several apparent inconsistencies as to the regulation on the credit contracts that the country can sign, contrasting what the government asks for in the bill and what decree 222/83 already established on state agreements. He said that the government will have to present some amendments to that decree, "at least in contracting foreign credits."

"There is one point that can be the cause of many problems in the future; it has to do with unilateral interpretation. This principle grants the contracting public entity the power to summon the contractor and express its opinion on possible differences in interpretation of the clauses of the contract with the objective of avoiding paralysis and advancing fulfillment."

"If there is no agreement, the entity will determine the form and mode of continuing the contract through the recourse of recovery. By signing the resolution, the contract will be executed in the way determined by the entity without affecting administrative and litigious actions that the contractor can advance."

The parliamentarian also said that great difficulty has been created for agreeing on a Colombian law on foreign credit in any modality "although the speaker understands that, under the present circumstances of the international capital market, it is difficult enough to continue agreeing on laws for foreign credits such as happened with the union that was going to contract with Chemical Bank."

"Article 10 establishes the obligation for contracting entities to obtain at least three financial bids unless it is credit granted by multilateral financial organisms like IBRD, IDB or foreign governmental credit agencies. There are figures in decree 222 that do not agree with the present circumstances of the international capital market, an obstacle that was indicated and proposed in the text of amendments."

"Last, it is important to remember the way an important achievement in economic policy and sovereignty has been lost. In the mentioned contract with Chemical Bank, the government used the power to contract under foreign law."

END
JL: (p. 10)

BRIEFS

ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLANNING--the country is gaining ground on the fiscal deficit. Although it advances in the creation of bases to revitalize the economy, however, there is still no real recovery, according to Minister of Finance Edgar Gutierrez Castro yesterday. The minister made this statement after a general examination by the Monetary Council of Colombian economic expectations. He stated that the basic negative tendencies of the crisis have been overcome and noted that these have been reversed. However, he was clear in indicating that the recovery depends not only on what happens in the country but also on what happens in the rest of the world. He stated: "I believe that we are improving our competitive position and, consequently, the possibility of expanding our exports. This is a necessarily slow process but I believe that the trend is what is important." After the session of the Monetary Council at Casa de Nariño was over, the minister said that the framework of the economic policy must be oriented toward explaining to the public what is expected of the various economic sectors. He added that the monetary authorities are interested in avoiding abrupt seasonal movements in the amount of money circulating in the country which could create destabilizing pressures on the price front.

Source: **EL TIEMPO**, in Spanish 25 Nov 83 p. 9-B1 7717

Ref: [unclear]

FIRST SCIENTIFIC POLLING FORUM EXPLORES VARIETY OF TOPICS

Generation Gap Noted

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 30 Nov 83 pp 1, 3

[Article by Mirta Rodriguez Calderon; passages enclosed in slantlines printed in boldface]

[Text] "Public opinion is part of the spiritual life of society. It reflects all or nearly all aspects of social life . . . The knowledge of public opinion enables one to determine how developed the nation's political and ideological consciousness is, and at the same time serves as an indicator of the effectiveness of the Party's ideological work."

This is an excerpt from the opening address given at the First Scientific Forum on Public Opinion by Humberto Rodriguez Manso, director of the National Team assigned that task by the Party Central Committee. The event, whose first session was chaired by Orlando Fundora, alternate member of the Central Committee and chief of the Department of Revolutionary Orientation, is being held at the Olo Pantoja Party Provincial School.

Eighty-four papers, most of them written by experts in the social and political sciences, jurists and public information researchers, were open to debate in the six working committees of the meeting.

The topics covered by the Forum include those derived from the compilation of useful and reliable data for the study of the people's concerns; problems and measures to adopt in the study of popular opinion; the scientific nature of the methods and means to be used; the influence of the mass media and propaganda; the development of the legal, moral and aesthetic consciousness of youth; and the nature of religious belief in our country.

The objectives set forth for the event were also announced by Rodriguez Manso, who listed the following goals: raising the scientific standards of public opinion research, data and results; establishing specific guidelines for strengthening and refining the work of Public Opinion Teams; using the conclusions drawn from this event as a basis for improving the training and performance of practitioners; and making the study of public opinion an irreplaceable tool for Party work, with the most advanced methods and techniques of

social research, in order to arrive at a prognosis of the problems and concerns of the masses.

Papers

Among the numerous papers of great interest that were discussed yesterday was "Studies of Public Opinion and Analysis of Sociopolitical Data," presented by Mayra Espina, Juan L. Marin and Lilia Nunez of the Institute of Social Sciences of the Academy of Sciences.

The researchers contend that there is no need to establish a new system of information for the sociopolitical field, but rather to articulate the sources of information and subject them to coordinated processing in order to enhance the possibilities of diagnosing and predicting social problems.

The authors of the paper later ask, What information allows us to refine more effectively the process of political leadership within the social scheme? What is the route to follow? /"In our opinion, the answer is to continue gathering public opinion, but to add a series of selected indicators whose repeated incidence bears a strong political connotation and serves to express fundamental aspects of the development of the socialist way of life."/

An interesting suggestion in this paper is that /"it is possible to envision the drawing of maps that express the situation of each component of our political-administrative division from the sociopolitical point of view,"/ just as demographic, ethnographic, cultural and other atlases do.

What Do People Listen to in Cuba?

Another of the many interesting papers dealt with radio in Cuba, and was presented by Fabio Fernandez Kessel, of the Cuban Institute of Radio and Television (ICRT). Between 1977 and 1983, he studied and synthesized current trends in the informational programming of the Cuban national radio networks.

The conclusions of his study indicate that in urban areas of the country the provincial broadcasters are listened to more than the national ones, and that "of the national networks, the programs with the largest audiences are those that serve eminently recreational and/or informational functions." In addition to Radio Reloj Nacional, /"just two news programs are tuned in by large numbers: El Rapido and Informacion Politica. It should be pointed out that both programs, whose mother station is Radio Rebelde, are listened to primarily on other stations that rebroadcast them."/

Some other trends observed in Cuban radio, according to the researcher, are differences in the audience, depending on whether they are workers, professionals, housewives or students; that the preference for informational programming /"is low in the under-30 population, especially among students;"/ that the Political Information Program experienced /"an increase in listening between 1977 and 1982;"/ and that /there is little or very little audience for informational programming/ except for the above-mentioned broadcasters. The conclusions of this paper pose a series of questions to be resolved, which are "challenges for research." Among those questions is: /Does anyone listen to

news bulletins? What is the reason for the underutilization of informational programming by national broadcasters?/

Contact with Youth

Two researchers from Camaguey, Enrique Napoles Crespo and Elsa Amador Arco, developed an important theme on the subject of the development of the political, moral and aesthetic consciousness of young people. The researchers recall Lenin's words that /"it is not unusual that the representatives of the mature and older generations do not know how to relate to young people appropriately, and young people necessarily approach socialism in a different way, not by the same route, nor in the same manner, nor under the same circumstances as their parents."/ They deduce that /"the example of our Revolution, the efforts of youth in their role as builders, confirms Lenin's statement about the role of youth and the way it approaches any mission."/

Then the researchers go on to analyze the informational messages received by young people, their subject matter and the sectors of the young population at which they are aimed or which they deal with. The authors assert that /"it is necessary for our people not only to hear news about accomplishments, successes, and results of emulation, but they should also be aware of the working conditions and the opinions of the youths who make up a large part of our working class."/ In the conclusions of this paper it is stated that /"the social consciousness of our youths goes hand in hand with the demands of the revolutionary process."/ The level of awareness of political problems should be raised, however, and effective methods of propaganda should be sought, especially for those areas where problems appear, such as moral and sexual education and the ways that youths deal with the contemporary ideological struggle.

Other Topics

A highly scientific study was "Computers and Automated Systems as Support for the Work of the Public Opinion Team," presented by Guillermina Alfonso. She corroborates the assertion that /"social research, in particular research on public opinion, should be carried out at a high scientific and technical level."/

"On the Opinionatics of Consumption," which will be discussed today, presents some novel--perhaps audacious--ideas. Its authors are Jorge Miguel Garcia and Humberto Jimenez, both of the Institute of Research and Orientation of Internal Demand. The paper emphasizes that /"knowledge of opinion trends and public opinion is an apt vehicle, if an indirect one, for the political and administrative leadership to keep in touch with the masses."/

Conclusion Today

The First Scientific Forum on Public Opinion will conclude this afternoon, after the reports on debate and a roundtable discussion entitled "Content Analysis: Its Various Sources and Methods of Evaluation in Public Opinion Research."

Perez Herrero Notes Wide Participation

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 1 Dec 83 pp 1, 2

[Article by Mirta Rodríguez Calderón; passages enclosed in slantlines printed in boldface]

[Text] Antonio Pérez Herrero, alternate member of the Politburo, presented a summary yesterday evaluating results, establishing guidelines and describing future prospects at the conclusion of the First Scientific Forum on Public Opinion. The Forum was held for 2 days at the Olo Pantoja Party Provincial School.

At the end of the meeting, the Party had 63 important recommendations culled from the reports of the six working committees that participated in the event, plus a wide-ranging and rich arsenal of papers--some of which reflect years of research--which added to the already valuable roundtable discussion that culminated the Forum. The roundtable discussion dealt with *"Content Analysis: Its Various Sources and Methods of Evaluation in Public Opinion Research."* The controversial polemics of the debate prompted by the discussion made it even more interesting. In that regard, Pérez Herrero said that the presentation of the roundtable and the ensuing debate had been very informative.

A unique aspect of this meeting on public opinion was the spontaneity of the public opinion one heard expressed in the corridors by the researchers and practitioners. Five or six papers dominated the subject of impromptu remarks. Many praised the originality of *"The Marxist Philosophy and Studies of Public Opinion,"* by young sociologist Roberto Méndez, who went back through the historical evolution of the concept of public opinion, from the slave societies and classic Greek civilization to modern times.

Similar praise was lavished on other papers, including *"Some Trends in the Gathering of Opinions as a Function of the Content and Meaning of Information,"* by four researchers from the Camaguey Provincial Team; *"Some Considerations to Bear in Mind in the Process of Transforming Agriculture to Higher Forms of Production,"* by Alberto Rete and Juan F. González, of the province of Matanzas; and *"Living Conditions in the Mountain Population,"* written by a team from the Institute of Physical Planning in the city of Havana.

Speech by Antonio Pérez Herrero

In summing up the event, Antonio Pérez Herrero stressed the large number of specialists in social sciences who had participated, and the support provided by the Academy of Sciences, the Nico López School, universities and other institutions, which he termed "a decisive factor in its success." He stated that one very positive aspect had been that nearly 80 percent of the papers presented covered "issues related to practical activity."

"Today," he asserted, "it is impossible to govern society properly and correctly carry out the tasks of the political-ideological education of the masses without knowing what people think, without determining precisely how

the specific problems of building socialism affect public opinion, what is the people's capacity to understand these problems, and how willing people are to face them and thus provide the elements of judgment necessary to find the right answer or the required solution."

Later he emphasized that studying public opinion "enables us to take the appropriate measures to meet the material and spiritual needs of the people," which is the expression of the Leninist principle that "we can only govern if we correctly express what the people think." He stressed that this Forum had been an expression of "the maturity that the Public Opinion Teams are gradually attaining." Their achievements, while modest, are worthy of praise, he noted. He insisted on the importance of the proper selection and training of practitioners so that the opinions gathered can be interpreted adequately and that even nuances can be discerned, "which are necessary to determine the opinion of those who express them."

Perez Herrero stressed in his speech that "the Marxist-Leninist method tells us that the analysis of social phenomena should take place multilaterally, covering them in all their facets and relationships, dealing with their real complexity. This principle should guide the investigation of public opinion."

He later mentioned the myriad sources that can and should be used, such as the opinions expressed at production assemblies, in accounting reports, in letters to the editor from the public, and at Party meetings. "We should place special emphasis," he noted, "on the analysis of the minutes of Party grassroots organizations, whose contents reflect the concerns of Party members or their assessment of the problems and opinions of the workers on matters that affect or interest them. This is a source of information that has the advantage of being the product of collective analysis by communists who are concerned with meeting the needs of our people and the working class."

With regard to the discussions on ways and methods to be used in this work, Perez Herrero, who is also a member of the Party Secretariat, advocated that all systems be utilized in order to come closer to the truth and have a very serious and responsible tool for determining how the masses reach their opinions, to evaluate and analyze them. He also urged that "this entire process be efficient and timely so that it can be of use in decision-making."

"The activity of this sector," he said later, "must necessarily continue to be channeled along scientific lines so that it can become the highest quality research center we could desire." After reiterating the importance of high quality in all the elements of the network in the processing of public opinion, Perez Herrero stressed "that any effort in this regard will lead to an increasingly rigorous, dynamic and accurate process." He concluded his speech by recognizing the work of the participants and urging them to "turn the beneficial experiences gained from this event into an effective tool for future work."

Roundtable

The panelists for the roundtable on the content analysis of public opinion were Albertina Mitjans and doctoral candidates Fernando Gonzalez and Maria

Febles, all of the School of Psychology of the University of Havana. They presented a series of techniques for public opinion research, which prompted much discussion. The conclusions reached will enable researchers in the future to approach this important topic more scientifically.

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CSO: 3248/269

TRADE UNION MOVEMENT BEGINS PROCESS OF REORGANIZATION

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 4 Dec 83 p 13B

[Text]

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada, UISC:

The Trade Union Movement in Grenada is regrouping along independent, democratic lines after attempts by the Government of former Prime Minister Maurice Bishop to infiltrate organized labour, compromise its independence, and politicize its membership.

"I would like to see the labour unions develop as before, free from political interference and looking out for the interests of their members," said Eric Pierre, General Secretary of the Grenada Seamen and Waterfront Workers' Union for 22-years. "Forget about party politics, we must deal with broader economic issues that affect our members and the populace as a whole."

Assistance in this reform of the Grenadian Union Movement is coming from the American Institute for Free Labour Development (AFLD).

The Seamen and Waterfront Workers' Union was the most steadfast and the most successful of the eight Grenadian Unions in opposing the attempts of the Bishop Government to gain influence over the labour movement and its approximately 9,000 members.

According to Pierre, the Taxi Drivers' Union and the Public Servants' Union also were fairly successful in resisting such Government pressure.

Need 'education'

In the five other unions, however — teachers, commercial and industrial workers, agricultural workers, bank and general workers, and technical and allied workers — the Bishop Government did instal its sympathizers as union heads. The Trade Union Council, the general governing board of Grenadian Labour Movement, also was infiltrated.

But even in these five unions, Pierre said, the membership never really supported this radicalization.

"Workers here are not yet politically educated," he explained. "If some workers tried to question the government, they were threatened and called counter-revolutionaries."

Although a relatively liberal labour code theoretically existed in Grenada during Bishop's rule, in reality the government reserved the right to declare any strike a political act and take retaliatory action against the union involved.

"Our membership saw that the government wanted to destroy the union," said Stanley Roberts, assistant secretary general of the Seamen and Waterfront Workers' Union. "The rank and file in our union are not quick to accept ideological suggestions put to them," he said in explanation of his union's resistance.

Bishop's government tried in a number of ways to exert pressure upon the Seamen and Waterfront Workers' Union.

Imprisoned

Roberts was jailed from July 1981 to December 1982. He was released after Bishop was criticized at a Caribbean Common Market (CARICOM) meeting for imprisoning labour union leaders.

One month after his release, however, Roberts was reimprisoned and held in preventive detention. Charged with such accusations as agitating workers and being a C.I.A. agent, he remained a political prisoner until the landing of U.S. and Caribbean troops in Grenada last month.

Other leaders of the Seamen and Waterfront Workers' Union were also imprisoned or went into exile.

OMINOUS IMPLICATIONS FOUND IN INVASION OF GRENADA

Reid Call for Alertness

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 6 Nov 83 pp 1, 4

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Reid has said that Guyanese should not be taken by surprise if similar moves against Grenada by the interventionists are attempted in Guyana.

Dr Reid addressing a solidarity rally for the Grenadian people, said that if this situation becomes a norm, there would be little hope for developing countries like Guyana.

The Monday evening rally at the Mackenzie High School attracted a large gathering who reaffirmed their position for the withdrawal of foreign forces from the island.

The Prime Minister called on the audience to view the situation with more depth, since it is not just a matter for Grenada and the other countries involved, but for ourselves and the world at large.

Meanwhile, a number of other solidarity rallies have been organised throughout the country. Senior government personnel have been assigned to address the various gatherings.

A rally was also expected to be held yesterday at the Anna Regina GCE compound, of which Cde Minister Corrica was expected to be the main speaker. Cde Jeffrey Thomas, Home Affairs Minister, was expected to address another rally on Wednesday at the Melanie Damishana Shopping Area in Region 4.

The idea of solidarity rallies has been initiated by President Forbes Burnham who was the main speaker at a massive rally recently at the Sophia Auditorium.

Report on Parliamentary Action

Georgetown MIRROR in English 6 Nov 83 pp 2-3

[Text] The Guyana Parliament has unanimously condemned the United States and six renegade Caricom countries for their armed invasion and occupation

of Grenada. The sitting, which was convened on October 28 last at the request of the PPP Parliamentary opposition, was chaired by Deputy Speaker Ram Karran in the absence of Speaker Sase Narine.

A motion titled 'Invasion of Grenada', tabled by Prime Minister Ptolemy Reid and seconded by Opposition Leader Cheddi Jagan, was approved after a three-hour debate. At the conclusion of the debate MPs observed a one-minute silence in deep admiration for the heroic resistance fighters who gave their lives in defence of Grenada against the invasion forces.

In a presentation described by Foreign Minister Jackson as 'brilliant', Dr. Jagan traced the criminal role of U.S. imperialism from the days of the Monroe Doctrine of 1823 through the Roosevelt Corollary to the more contemporary Kennedy-Johnson-Nixon-Ford-Carter-Reagan eras.

U.S. invasion of Grenada, he said, is 'dastardly and despicable.' It is a case of a vulture-eagle descending on a peaceful dove; a bully out to crush a small heroic people.

He attacked the 'fascists' in the Pentagon (USA) and their Caribbean 'minions', describing the latter as 'regional hawks' whose treacherous role gave Washington the pretext for the criminal gunboat action in Grenada.

Dr. Jagan, a former Guyanese Premier, recalled the sordid role of the Caribbean political leadership in 1953 when British imperialism landed troops, suspended the Constitution and forcibly removed the PPP from government. Some reactionary Caribbean leaders had then applauded the British.

In the case of the 1953 invasion of Guyana when Britain stated that it was not going to allow a 'communist state to be organised within the British Commonwealth,' the American administration later adopted the line that U.S. 'will not permit the establishment of another communist government in the Western Hemisphere' after the Cuban revolution.

The United States had assumed this role in order to 'protect' its 'vital interest' which Dr. Jagan summarised thus: purchase by Caribbean and Latin American countries of US\$20 billion of US exports; US direct private investment of more than \$27 billion or 82 per cent of investment in the whole world; and \$4 billion a year in earnings.

Noting that Guyana has taken a firm position against the invasion of Grenada, the PPP leader urged the government to be consistent--to break with the pro-imperialist International Monetary Fund, to firm up Guyana's links with the socialist community and the revolutionary-democratic states of the third world, and to find a political solution to the grave crisis in Guyana.

'Political differences in 1953 in British Guiana, and similar differences in Grenada in 1983, opened the way for intervention by imperialism and its

lackeys. Imperialism must not be allowed to meddle in our affairs,' Dr. Jagan warned.

Foreign Affairs Minister Rashleigh Jackson in a hard-hitting attack on US imperialism and its regional and local puppets said that the objective of the Grenada invasion was to silence Grenada and send a clear warning to socialist and other progressive forces in Central America and the Caribbean.

Mr. Jackson briefed the House on the isolation of the invaders in the UN Security Council, the Organisation of American States and in the Non-Aligned Movement.

He opened his speech with a quotation from General Smedley Butler who had described his role in making Central and Latin America 'safe for US business.' His role had included armed aggression, violent removal of governments and subversion. Mr. Jackson said there are new realities in the world with imperialism today using as additional weapons, disinformation and destabilisation. Imperialism has resorted to these subtle methods because of the consolidation of the socialist world revolution led by the Soviet Union. He urged the greater use of the socialist and non-aligned forces as a shield against imperialism.

At the beginning of the debate demonstrators entered the Parliament Buildings compound, chanting 'Yankees out of Grenada!'

Minister's Remarks

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 9 Nov 83 p 3

[Text] East Demerara (GNA)--Home Affairs Minister Cde. Jeffrey Thomas told a rally on the Grenada situation that "we must criticise those Caribbean leaders like Uncle Tom not only for inviting American marines to help in the invasion but who saw it fit to be part of the exercise and to justify that exercise."

The rally was sponsored by the Regional Democratic Council of Region Four and held at the Melanie cinema.

In his welcoming remarks Cde. Ivan Remington, Regional Chairman who chaired the programme said: "Today more than ever we need to be united, we need to let our voices be heard and to speak out against these dastardly acts."

He said that we must bear in mind that what has happened in Grenada could surely happen to Guyana and we need to show our solidarity with our sister state. Let this be done with all seriousness and commitment, he said.

Cde. Thomas after giving a background to the Grenada situation noted that it had serious implications for Guyana.

He said that prior to the invasion, Grenada was pursuing a new course that has now become a thing of the past. We need therefore to offer our sincere sympathy to the Grenadian people and share the sadness that goes with it, he said.

He called on Guyanese to guard against similar situations. We will resolve all in our powers, he said, to preserve the integrity of our sister nation while at the same time preserve our own integrity.

A resolution calling for the immediate withdrawal of all forces from Grenada was unanimously passed.

Berbice Rally

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 10 Nov 83 p 3

[Text] Hundreds of Barticians attended a rally to show their grief and give solidarity to the Grenadians in their struggle against the invasion of their country, by American troops, assisted by the O.E.C.S. countries, Jamaica and Barbados.

Converging on the Bartica Market Square on Monday night, the Barticians heard Guyana Fisheries Executive Chairman and Senior P.N.C. party official Robert Williams explain that the Grenada invasion was a deliberate attempt by the United States of America to have American imperialism once again established in the Caribbean.

He noted that ever since America and its "Caribbean puppets"--Jamaica, Barbados, and Dominica--had indicated their dislike of the progressive steps the Grenadians were making under their Socialist system, and the internal problems of Bishop's New Jewel Movement was the excuse to remove Grenada's progressive government.

"The Grenadians will again free themselves from the hands of their enemy", (he however opined). "It is for this reason", he said, "Guyanese should be ever watchful, because ours is also a Socialist struggle and we are within the Caribbean."

Cde. Williams also reminded the gathering of the ill effects that can prevail if one allows U.S. imperialism to be re-established in Guyana, and called on Barticians to be steadfast and defend their country if any such invasion should take place in Guyana.

Regional Chairman for Region No. 7 Gervy Harry, who also addressed the rally, strongly criticised the Grenada invasion saying that it was not only illegal but also uncivilised and brutal.

He also stressed the importance for Guyanese to take the matter seriously and use it as an indicator as to the extent the United States will go, assisted by its Caribbean lackeys, to have its presence felt in the region. Cde. Harry told the Barticians to pay heed to the way the Grenadians were

defending themselves against the Americans and called on those who are not already members of the Guyana People's Militia to join now and be able to defend themselves later.

Slap at Compton

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 10 Nov 83 p 1

["Page One Comment"]

[Text] The Prime Minister of the independent Caribbean State of Saint Lucia stood up in his country last weekend, under the flags of his own country, of Grenada and the United States of America, and said, "We have the stars and stripes to protect us."

Toussaint L'Overture must have screamed aloud from his grave. And the anguished cries of bondsmen, silenced since the last century, must have risen from the dust into which they were trampled.

For Prime Minister John Compton's proclamation has signalled, at least for his country, the advent of a brand new style of colonialism. Saint Lucia shed the yoke of British colonialism last year. This year, it has taken on that of the Americans.

And this just when everyone thought that the Caribbean Basin was about to become a region where alien rule was a thing of the past. Just when independent states, embattled by towering economic woes, were nevertheless facing up to their trials with optimism and a determination inspired by pride in the very fact of independence.

And now the Compton proclamation. He has ripped the mask away from all the spurious reasons advanced for the invasion. He became spokesman for the other five in the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States involved in the American-led invasion. He proudly announced that the decision they made to invade Grenada came fifteen minutes after they met, and that the reason was to halt communism in the region.

Compton has tragically reversed history in the region. He has made of his country a protectorate in an age when the genre is a bad word.

He has betrayed perhaps the aspirations of his own people, and certainly that of his fellow Caribbean man.

Are we to expect similar announcements from the others?

CSO: 3298/245

SEAGA SEEKS TO EXCLUDE GUYANA FROM CARICOM TALKS

News Report

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 6 Nov 83 p 1

[Text] Kingston (IPS)--The Jamaican Government is moving to patch up the 13-member Caribbean Community (Caricom), a casualty of the US-led invasion of member territory Grenada.

The Edward Seaga administration's initiatives are proceeding without the participation of Guyana.

Guyana's President Forbes Burnham has strongly denounced the invasion of Grenada, and particularly the involvement of troops and policemen from Caribbean States in the exercise.

Jamaican Prime Minister Edward Seaga told journalists Friday he had instructed Attorney-General Winston Spaulding to seek urgent consultations among Caricom members, with the exception of Guyana, to draft proposals governing entry, suspension and expulsion from the Community.

Seaga said Guyana had signalled its intention not to participate in such a restructuring of the Community.

The Jamaican leader said the new initiative would create "Caricom II."

Guyana, along with Antigua and Barbuda and Barbados, spearheaded the Caribbean Free Trade Area (Carifta), forerunner to Caricom.

The existing Caricom Treaty has no provisions for expulsion or other sanctions against member states, and decisions must be taken on the basis of unanimity.

Seaga and other leaders found the unanimity provision a stumbling block when they tried to get the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) of Grenada expelled from the movement.

Seaga termed "offensive" Guyana's joint sponsorship of a resolution in the UN Security Council condemning the invasion. He claimed the Forbes Burnham administration had "weakened" relations within Caricom.

But Seaga indicated at the press conference that he was making a distinction between the Caricom Free Trade Agreement in the Common Market and the other functional co-operation agreement, implying that Guyana might wish to continue participating in the former.

CHRONICLE Reaction

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 6 Nov 83 p 1

["Page One Comment"]

[Text] Jamaica Prime Minister Edward Seaga is attempting to launch an attack on Guyana in a round-handed and blatantly transparent move to keep Guyana out of the region's decision-making. He has initiated consultations for Caricom 2--without the participation of Guyana.

And to add more to the 'eye-pass', Seaga has termed as offensive, Guyana's joint sponsoring of a resolution in the UN Security Council condemning the invasion of Grenada and claiming that the Burnham administration had 'weakened' relations within Caricom.

If anyone has weakened Caricom, it is Jamaica with its high-handed attitude and action in spearheading the invasion along with the United States and the six other Caribbean countries.

Guyana was the driving force behind the formation of Carifta (forerunner to Caricom) and has been responsible in many instances for keeping the region together during turbulent times.

Guyana has been applauded over and over for its principled stand on non-intervention, exemplified when she voted against the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1980.

Yet now Seaga, obviously prompted, claims that Guyana has weakened relations with the region.

There must be more in the mortar beside the pestle, and the haste with which Seaga is bent on launching CARICOM 2 would seem to indicate that now that Grenada is once again 'colonised' the eyes of the imperialists are turned to Guyana and frantic efforts are being made to begin a concerted destabilisation attack on Guyana.

But let them be warned. Guyana is not Grenada.

CSO: 3298/246

TRINIDAD CHURCHMAN 'SHOCKED' BY SITUATION IN GUYANA

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 17 Nov 83 p 1

[Article by Clevon Raphael]

[Text]

GUYANESE are praying for the United States of America to perform an operation similar to that in Grenada and "rescue" them from the Forbes Burnham government.

This is the word from Trinidadian missionary and evangelist Harry Ramkissoon who returned from Guyana Saturday, after conducting a one-week crusade in Berbice, about 100 miles from the Guyanese capital.

Pastor Ramkissoon said he was struck by the chronic lack of food items and the consequential black market prices the Guyanese were forced to pay.

He explained, "I was shocked to see loaves of bread sold at \$7 each; nine dollars for a pound of flour; and during my stay I did not see one bottle of aerated beverage (sweet drink).

The shelves in the supermarkets and shops were virtually empty. One grain of garlic was sold for one dollar. A roll of toilet paper went for \$12. At the country's main airport all the toilets were clogged as people used hard brown paper instead of toilet paper.

"Because of the manner in which the government controls the country the Guyanese only speak in a whisper about their terrible plight."

He said that most of them were saying that the Angel Gabriel went to the wrong "G" and he elaborated.

"Instead of America invading Grenada they feel Guyana should have been invaded."

The 35-year-old evangelist who is in

favour of the multi-national action led by the Americans, said

"Because of the views I heard being expressed by the people, only the Guyanese Government is not in favour of the rescue operation."

"They are actually praying that the Americans come in and help them out of their bondage..."

The pastor also criticised Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister George Chambers for inviting only the leaders of the local Roman Catholic and Anglican Churches to discuss the matter.

He added: "They alone do not speak for the entire Christian community in this country. He could have invited a representative of the evangelists and also of the non-Christian community."

FOOD BOUND FOR GRENADA PURCHASED, OFFLOADED HERE

Georgetown CATHOLIC STANDARD in English 6 Nov 83 p 1

[Text]

THE GUYANA Government through the Guyana Pharmaceutical Corporation (GPC) has bought some 120 tonnes of food originally destined for the troubled Caricom State of Grenada.

The food arrived on Sun. Oct. 23 on the vessel H.F. Sahlman which was unable to dock in Grenada because of the shoot to kill 24 hr. curfew that had been imposed by the military there.

The food which comprises almost 100 cartons of chickens, approx. 150 cartons pork, approx. 150 cartons bacon, and approx. 150 cartons ducks, apples, grapes and potatoes had been ordered by Grenada from Sahlman Seafoods Inc. of Tampa, Florida, USA of which George Town Seafoods Ltd. is a subsidiary.

Only the chickens, pork, bacon and ducks were taken by GPC and paid for in Guyana dollars.

The food is being stored at the Guyana Fisheries Ltd.

Meanwhile, it was announced by a principal Agricultural Officer on Thurs. Oct. 27 that there will be sufficient chickens and pork for the Christmas season.

This news has surprised farmers who have been complaining of insufficient stockfeed for their birds and animals.

The principal Agricultural Officer claimed that Guyanese makers of stockfeed had responded well to the challenge of making it from raw materials available locally.

CSO: 3298/246

GOVERNMENT BARS PPP FROM VISITING AMERINDIAN AREAS

Georgetown MIRROR in English 6 Nov 83 p 4

[Text] Official policy of the ruling party to deny the People's Progressive Party from visiting Amerindian Settlements in the interior has remained unchanged. In October two applications were sent by the People's Progressive Party to the Ministry of Regional Development, requesting permission for representatives of the Party to visit the Hosororo Hill Amerindian Village and the St. Francis and St. Cuthbert Amerindian villages, but permission was refused. Even an application for PPP Parliamentary spokesman on Amerindian Affairs, Harry Persaud Nokta, was turned down.

The PNC regime seems to consider Amerindian Villages as sensitive areas politically, from the point of view that the PPP enjoys great support from the Amerindian community. Official fears of the collection of evidence of government's neglect to the Amerindian community, their treatment as second class citizens, and the awful conditions under which they live.

The refusal to grant permission by the Ministry of Regional Development to the PPP to visit Amerindian settlements is an infringement on the rights to travel and assembly within the country. To debar the PPP representatives from meeting with members and supporters of the party is a political act directed against the Opposition Party and contravenes the Constitution of Guyana, a Freedom House spokesman declared. Further, he charged the PNC regime of being afraid of the influence of the PPP among the Amerindian people, taking into account also, the staggering hostility of the Amerindian people to the PNC government. Protests are being proceeded with by the PPP.

CSO: 3298/246

PLANT MAINTENANCE UNIT REPORTS PROGRESS SCORED IN 1982

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 9 Nov 83 pp 4-5

[Text]

THE implementation of more efficient control and reporting systems along with the rationalisation of hire accounts submissions to the Secretary of the Treasury, was one area of progress made by the Plant Maintenance and Hire Division (PM&HD) in 1982.

The submission of an Incentive Scheme and the implementation of a preventative maintenance programme for its light equipment fleet were also indicative of the progress made by the division during the year.

Established in June 1979, the Plant Maintenance and Hire Division comprises an integration of staff and facilities of the Ministries of Works and Agriculture.

And during the period 1979-1981, much attention was paid to streamlining the division's operations in an effort to make it an economically viable concern.

But it was not until last year that the division was able to record a favourable

income-expenditure ratio.

However, according to the 1982 Annual Report, the PM&HD like many other public sector agencies suffered from a number of setbacks and disappointments during that year. These setbacks include the non-payment of bills by a number of government agencies and large scale retrenchment which caused some of the division's workshops to be closed down.

It was revealed that government agencies owed the PM & HD Hire Division over \$795 000. And by the end of the 1982, outstanding debts to the division stood at \$1.7 million. Added to this, the division lost about \$381 000 as a result of thefts at its various workshops.

During last year, there was a marked increase in the demand for agricultural, mining and road building equipment, a feature which suggests that there were

increased activities in these areas.

There was also an increase in the demand by government agencies for motor vehicles from the Division, but the slow supply of spare parts restricted the unit's operations in the area of vehicles rentals.

The retrenchment exercise which took place during the month of April last year, precipitated the closure of eleven workshops. According to the PM&HD report, this retrenchment also caused the movement of the PM&HD head office complex from Georgetown to Coldingen on the East Coast of Demerara, thereby causing overload, congestion and general confusion within the main registry of the division.

On the positive side, the utilisation of direct labour at the remaining workshops increased significantly with the work centres showing some degree of financial viability.

CSO: 3298/246

SUGAR INDUSTRY MEETING TARGET, EXHORTED TO DIVERSIFY

Burnham Speech

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 8 Nov 83 p 3

[Text]

EAST BERBICE [GNA] — President Forbes Burnham last Thursday said that the Guyana Sugar Corporation [GUYSUCO] with its experience, expertise and its tradition, would be the major agricultural producer in the country.

And he called upon the Corporation to expand its fish culture programme and to be more efficient in rice production.

"Let us continue to produce sugar more efficiently and also diversify our crops," he said.

The President was at the time speaking at a commissioning of \$1.6 million (G) worth of field equipment for Guysuco, at Manarabisi Rice Project some eight kilometres aback of Skeldon estate on the Corentyne.

The equipment which included three harrowers, two tractors, two scrapers and a land planer will be used for land preparation for both rice and sugar cultivation by the Corporation.

The equipment purchased from Cameco Industries Incorporated, a US firm, represents new technology for land preparation and farming in the country.

President Burnham congratulated Guysuco for acquiring the new equipment which he said would help to increase production and productivity.

But he requested that the Corporation compile a report at the end of the first rice crop in which the machinery

would be involved so as to determine the level of production.

The President, who braved a heavy downpour to witness a demonstration of the equipment in the field, reiterated "agriculture is pivotal to our survival and pivotal to our prosperity."

"We in Guyana must decide, not only in terms of words and worthy resolutions but in terms of determined action, that we should always be self-sufficient in food. If we can provide our own food, we shall be in a position to maintain our independence," the President added.

Directing his remarks to the many rice farmers present, the President urged increased production so that surpluses could be exported and exchanged for goods "which we cannot yet produce."

He also expressed concern about some people who indulged in smuggling goods across the border.

Chairman of the proceedings was Vice-President, Production, **Desmond Hoyte**, while Guysuco's Chairman **Harold Davis** welcomed the participants and gave a brief outline of the plans of the Corporation.

Plans for Rice Complex

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 8 Nov 83 p 3

[Text]

EAST BERBICE: (GNA)

— Guyana Sugar Corporation Chairman Harold Davis has announced that Guysuco intends to set up a rice complex with bulk storage and processing facilities at Skeldon on the Upper Corentyne.

He said the complex would be located near to Springlands where shipping facilities are available.

The processing of rice, he explained will be done with the use of "exhaust" steam from skeldon sugar factory. He was speaking Thursday at a ceremony to mark the commissioning of a new set of land preparation and other agricultural equipment at Manarabisi.

The programme, he said, would cut expenditure which at the moment includes the cost of transporting paddy and subsequently the milled rice, between the Guysuco

Manarabisi Rice Project and Black Bush Polder — some 32 kilometres away before the rice is shipped from Springlands.

This project, Cde. Davis explained, is one of the many aspects of Guysuco's diversification programme which also features fish, oil palm and black eye peas production.

He said Guysuco sees as part of its mission, the transforming of a monoculture organisation into a diversified agro-industry which will contribute to the nation's foreign exchange earnings and which will help boost the nation's self-reliance drive.

Our immediate plan, he said, is to rotate selected sugar with rice, which, apart from the economic reasons, has agronomic benefits.

Production Results

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 6 Nov 83 p 8

[Text]

THE Guyana Sugar Corporation's ten (10) sugar producing units, together produced 8,215 tons sugar for the week against an estimate of 8,670 tons. Although this production attainment represents 92.6 per cent of the week's estimate, the industry could have performed much better in prime harvesting weather were it not for strikes, factory mechanical down-time and out-of-cane periods.

Skeldon, Albion Port Mourant, Rose Hall and Leonora were the estates affected by stoppages of work while I.B.I. Wales, Unvugt and Blairmont factories suffered significant mechanical down-time.

Arson at Wales affected approximately 32 acres of canes and at Unvugt, 31.7 acres were similarly damaged.

Production for the crop is 114,035 tons which is 73.9 per cent of the crop's estimate of 154,295 tons to date. The year's total has reached 200,130 tons.

Albion Port Mourant and Diamond have surpassed their respective targets for the week and consequently, gained placements on the Guysuco Production Honours Roll.

Albion produced 1,585 tons, an achievement of 105.7 per cent of its estimate of 1,500 tons and

Diamond, with a production of 975 tons made

150.0 per cent of its target of 650 tons.

Rose Hall, Blairmont, Enmore and Leonora have all made over 90 per cent of their respective targets and earned Honourable-mention rating.

Skeldon has been singled out for creditable performance with a production attainment of 865 tons or 87.4 per cent of its target of 990 tons sugar.

The Corporation stated that with two-thirds of the crop completed, production continues to lag behind the estimate due to stoppages of work, factory problems and non-achievement of tons cane/tons sugar estimates on a number of estates.

There are still a number of weeks' grinding-time remaining during which we should aim at maximising sugar production so that our marketing commitments could be met and at the same time, bring in much needed exchange for the benefit of all.

Year-to-Date Shortfall

Georgetown MIRROR in English 6 Nov 83 p 4

[Text] The Guyana Sugar Corporation has disclosed that production for the year so far stands at 191,915 tons sugar. With the year's target set at 280,000 tons, this is 68.5 percent of the total meaning that 88,085 tons sugar are still outstanding with only a few weeks left for the crop. Experts in the industry say that the time factor is against Guysuco.

They are disenchanted with this low figure, and blame management and its intransigence with workers for this sorry state of affairs. The workers want to work but are confronted with all sorts of hostile attitudes and adverse conditions. They are also plagued with a "penny wise pound foolish" mentality which generates strikes where a little common-sense and flexibility would keep the factories going.

There has been first class weather in Guyana for sugar cane harvesting...the best weather for many years. This good weather is still continuing. Now therefore is the time to maximise sugar production before the rainy season descends. Already union sources in the sugar belt are saying that it is unlikely that the modest target of 280,000 tons would be met. It has been noted that the government is able to sell every pound of sugar produced.

Still lamenting the low production figures, Guysuco in a recent release sobbed:

"Once again with the weather ideal for harvesting, production should have been higher but work stoppages affected production particularly at Blairmont and Emmore."

For the past week Guysuco said that production was affected by strikes at Inmore and Leonora estates, and significant factory downtime at Skeldon and IBI estates.

In the meantime, Guysuco says that it has held talks with the three unions in the sugar belt on the question of worker participation in the industry. Elections to this effect are due on all estate locations on December 8, 1983. The electoral lists are to be posted up on November 17, 1983 while nominations will be closed on November 28, 1983 at 6.00 p.m. "A non-managerial worker from each Estate Workers' Council shall be elected to the two Regional Boards," a release said.

Industry-Union Mediator

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 9 Nov 83 p 5

[Text] Minister of Manpower Cde. Kenneth Denny has appointed Deputy Chief Labour Officer, Cde. Z. Majeed, conciliator into the dispute between the Guyana Sugar Corporation and the unions representing workers in the sugar industry.

An executive of the Guyana Agricultural and General Workers' Union said yesterday that they had reached a stalemate in talks with Guysuco on the question of a production bonus for workers of the industry.

The unions representing workers in the sugar industry--GAWU, the National Association of Agricultural, Commercial, and Industrial Employees, and the Guyana Field Foremen Union--had held several meetings with Guysuco officials on the question of a production bonus.

CSO: 3298/247

ENGINEERS WORKING TO RESTORE NEW AMSTERDAM WATER SUPPLY

Water Crisis

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 3 Nov 83 p 3

[Text] Engineers and technicians from the Georgetown Sewerage and Water Commissioners and the New Amsterdam Municipality are working feverishly to restore the potable water supply in New Amsterdam which has been hit with a water crisis for the past four days.

The problem started last Friday night when a motor from one of the pumps was burnt.

Town Clerk Ernest Ramsuchit yesterday disclosed that repairs to the damaged motor were nearly completed and declared that water would start flowing again as from last night.

He however urged consumers to bear up with the Council which is doing everything within its power to grapple with the situation, despite the financial constraint.

Cde. Ramsuchit praised the Georgetown Sewerage and Water Commissioners for sending its Chief Engineer, Cde. David Dewar and senior technician Ramdhanie, to help speed up repair works to the water pumps.

Meanwhile, sugar workers from Rose Hall estate yesterday went on strike in protest against shortage of drinking water in the East Canje district. (GNA)

Further Setback

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 4 Nov 83 p 4

[Text] East Berbice--Another fault was Tuesday night discovered in the engine of the New Amsterdam Municipal pumping station and this further aggravated the potable water situation in the town.

One of the main bearings was damaged and acting Town Engineer, Neville Johnson, said efforts are now being made to obtain a replacement from Georgetown.

He said a special team from New Amsterdam has been dispatched Wednesday morning to help locate the spare in Georgetown.

The acting engineer pointed out that the fault has caused a setback to the water situation in the town since it was identified just after repairs were completed on one of the damaged motors.

The water shortage situation began last Friday night when the pump broke down. Residents were forced to fetch water from outside New Amsterdam with motor driven and animal drawn vehicles.

Cde Johnson has appealed to members of the Berbice Chamber of Commerce and Development Association and other agencies to put their vehicles at the disposal of residents by helping to transport water to the various housing schemes.

Meanwhile, a number of vehicle owners are capitalising on the water situation by selling water to residents in the town for as much as ten dollars per drum.

ASST: 1298/248

BRIEFS

BURNHAM IN ESSEQUIBO--The standard of living of residents in the riverain areas of Essequibo was assured of improvement. This assurance was given by President Burnham when recently he visited Bartica, the administrative centre of Region Seven, and extended his trip to riverain areas in Essequibo. At Bartica the President set in motion a number of plans for bringing rapid solution to problems. Residents had complained of difficulties in obtaining fuel supplies and firearm licences, particularly transportation problems which affected students attending schools at Bartica and Parika. The President was asked to consider construction of a boat ramp at Alik, repairs to Headmasters' houses at Alik and Makouria. The President who had helicoptered to the settlement thus demonstrating his anxiety to meet farmers and residents to show the same concern for having the problems of residents speedily solved and this was the assurance given him and accepted with a promptitude coming from their experience of the President's fidelity to his pledged word. [Text] [Georgetown NEW NATION in English 6 Nov 83 p 2]

EDIBLE-OIL MILLS--The thrust towards self-sufficiency in edible oil has gained speed with the decision by the Guyana Pharmaceutical Corporation-- to provide every Region in the country with portable hydraulic oil mills for the extraction of oil from wild nuts. The first oil mill of this type which has been set up in Region Four and formally presented to Regional Chairman Ivan Remington has been operating successfully. Executive Chairman of the GPC Wilfred A. Lee along with GPC's Research and Development Manager presented the mill and disclosed that the other regions would receive their mills by the end of October. The mill can produce twenty gallons of oil every day. The objective is to familiarise farmers with the functioning of the mill so that they will be able to use one given them as models for the construction of similar and even bigger ones. The national drive towards self-sufficiency is in all areas of production, and now all the regions will be producing their own edible oil. [Text] [Georgetown NEW NATION in English 6 Nov 83 p 3]

FOR PATROL BOATS--The Guyana Defence Force's Maritime Command, at Nimveldt, expects to rehabilitate three riverain patrol vessels within the next three weeks following the acquisition of a quantity of badly needed spare parts. The spare parts, a gift from the Georgetown Seafoods Limited, a private fishing company, were handed over to G.D.F. personnel at a brief

ceremony yesterday afternoon. Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Harry Hinds, described the parts as "useful" and, they will go a long way in improving the Wing's patrol capability. The first of the three vessels should be river-worthy by weekend and the other two within the next two weeks. Senior officials of the Georgetown Seafoods, the Guyana Fisheries Limited (GFL) and the Police Force's Maritime Section were on hand to witness the presentation. The gift includes two new engines, four engine blocs, propellers, overhaul kits, oil filters and ignition units. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 10 Nov 83 p 1]

VENEZUELAN FISHING TRAWLER--A Venezuelan fishing vessel found operating in Guyana waters has been detained by the Guyana Defence Force. The vessel now moored at a city wharf, was found 50 miles off the Essequibo Coast, within Guyana's exclusive economic zone. The vessel is being detained pending investigation of its certification. "The GDF's routine fisheries protection programme is continuing," a GDF spokesman said yesterday. Since the year began Guyana Defence Force vessels have picked up more than 40 vessels under similar conditions. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 10 Nov 83 p 1]

FLOUR AT PORT--Almost 17,000 bags of wheaten flour and 4,000 bags of wheat-soy-milk, have been lying on the GNTC wharf for as long as five months in some cases. On June 7, almost 2,000 bags of flour arrived from UNICEF as part of their World Food Programme (WFP). On August 6, 5,000 bags of flour and 2,000 bags of wheat-soy-milk arrived on the vessel 'Tapogos' from the USA, also as part of WFP. On September 16, 5,000 bags of flour arrived on the 'Mentor' from the EEC intended for the biscuit factories. On September 20, 2,000 bags of wheat-soy-milk arrived on the 'Solina' from the EEC. And on October 8, 5,000 bags of flour arrived from the EEC. According to several reports, the flour which has been donated by various agencies has been rejected by the government and is awaiting re-shipment to their places of origin. [Text] [Georgetown CATHOLIC STANDARD in English 6 Nov 83 p 1]

LIBERATOR PARTY PROTEST--The Liberator Party, an opposition group in Guyana, has condemned the invasion of Grenada and has called on American, Commonwealth Caribbean and Cuban military personnel to withdraw. The organisation criticised the ruling People's National Congress and the parliamentary opposition People's Progressive Party (PPP) for condemning the invasion but supporting the invasion of Afghanistan. The Liberator Party stressed that the invasion of Afghanistan and Grenada as well as the killings on 19 are "all violations of fundamental human rights." In calling for withdrawal of all foreign soldiers, the organisation said that the should then be allowed "to turn their backs on both Gairicism and Islam and seek their destiny in terms of their own traditions and " [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 14 Nov 83

1983-1984 DRAMATIC INCREASE IN UNEMPLOYMENT

Caribbean LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 8-10 Nov 83

[Continued series on national unemployment by Victor Hugo Alvarez]

[11 Nov 83 (16)]

However, the high unemployment level becomes much higher when one considers the large number of people who have no steady job, are underemployed and set up itinerant businesses or tiny craft shops in their homes, devote themselves to domestic occupations, or simply sell lottery tickets.

The unemployment rate in this country has been rising perceptibly over the past 15 years, and it began to reach truly alarming levels in 1982. According to figures by CONCEPLANE [Higher Council for Economic Planning], the rate rose from 10.5 percent in 1982 to 21.2 percent in 1983.

Labor leaders, businessmen, and a few realistic government officials have spoken through the country's mass media over the past few months to say that the high unemployment rate is a "time bomb," and every unemployed person is a guerrilla waiting to explode.

Even in the document presented to the Pisinger Commission, the government mentioned its concern over this phenomenon, which is tending to grow much worse in coming years.

Based on

The Honduran production apparatus has come to a standstill--the country's economic growth is negative--and this is visibly affecting the labor market. Many firms have closed their facilities, while others have effected sharp cutbacks in personnel. Meanwhile, the number of new workers entering the job market is increasing.

As a result of these conditions, the situation is boxed in, and this is reflected in the CONCEPLANE study when it says: "During the period from 1981 to 1983, the economically active population, or labor force, increased at an average rate of 4.5 percent annually.

"That population totals 1,210,500 in 1983, for an increase in absolute figures of 86,000 workers in comparison with 1981."

The document says: "During those same years, the total employment level rose from 907,000 (in 1981) to 954,000 (in 1983). Those figures reveal an average annual growth rate of 2.6 percent and an absolute increase of 47,000 in the number of available jobs."

In other words, a total of 39,000 Hondurans joined the tragic ranks of the unemployed between 1981 and 1983.

But the most revealing picture is the one showing that the country's total estimated population in 1983 is 4,092,175 Hondurans, 2,686,100 of whom are over 10 years of age. The latter figure includes an economically active population of 1,210,500, of whom only 954,000 are employed, with 256,000 being unemployed.

Those 256,000 Hondurans are either currently looking for work or have absolutely no chance of being hired, and they constitute 21.2 percent of the total economically active population.

CONSUPLANE estimates that the basic age for starting to support oneself by work is 10 and that of the country's total population, 45 out of every 100 Hondurans over 10 years of age lack a job.

Agriculture an Illusion

The analysis reveals that a slight change has occurred in the number of new jobs in agriculture, but that the number is terribly low in comparison with the number of jobs needed in that sector of the country's production.

The document points out: "Employment in that sector has risen by 36,000 jobs over the past few years. That increase is due less to a rise in production activity than it is to the prevailing occupational characteristics of this sector, where over 55 percent of those employed are actually unpaid family workers."

The document comments: "The above looks positive at first glance, but it must be interpreted as a growth in the already high and chronic level of underemployment that is characteristic of this sector."

It then adds: "Concerning this problem, there are estimates indicating that underemployment affects 89 percent of those employed in the agricultural sector."

Forestry

In analyzing the creation of jobs in forestry--one of the sectors receiving the most stimulus from governments in recent years and one which was viewed as offering an alternative for production--the CONSUPLANE document says:

"Activities based on the exploitation and industrialization of that abundant resource should be important generators of employment, but they resulted in the creation of only 2,400 jobs during the period from 1981 to 1983."

There were 22,932 such jobs in 1981, and by 1983 the number had risen to only 25,332.

It is important to note here that in the document presented to the Kissinger Commission, the strategy adopted is that of providing greater stimulus to the forest industry, which is depicted as being one of the most productive sectors not only in economic terms as a generator of foreign exchange, but also as one with a strong social impact through the creation of jobs.

Industrial Sector

It is the frail Honduran production system in the industrial sector that has been hardest hit by unemployment. The closing of firms, the massive layoffs, the flight of capital, and the lack of confidence necessary for investment have yielded their results very quickly.

The impact of the rising unemployment rate has been affecting workers most recently in the construction, footwear, leather, and food products industries.

From 1981 to 1983, according to CONSUPLANE's figures, "industrial employment declined by 6,200. This means that traditional industry--that is, those firms devoted to the raising and slaughtering of cattle, meat preparation, and factories and mills for the production of sugar, beverages, tobacco, textiles, clothing, and so on--provided 95,661 jobs in 1981. In 1983, only 89,000 Hondurans were still working in those industries, meaning that over 6,000 of them had become unemployed."

According to the document, the intermediate goods industry--concerned with the manufacture of paper byproducts, rubber products, chemical products, and so on--offered better employment opportunities, since 1,168 new jobs were created in those firms between 1981 and 1983.

Advancing Sideways

It is obvious from CONSUPLANE's study that the situation as presented grew more critical in the period from 1981 to 1983, when the economic crisis--which many described as "seasonal"--reached its worst point. The ingredients were political instability in the Central American region, vacillation in economic policy, and government indecisiveness on the subject.

The study says: "As a consequence of the developments described above, the job situation and working conditions for the country's labor force deteriorated drastically during the period in question."

CONSUPLANE says: "The number of unemployed workers, which stood at 217,200 in 1981, rose to 256,000 in 1983, thus increasing the rate of open unemployment from 17.3 percent to 21 percent. It is also estimated that underemployment during those same years affected over 57 percent of those employed."

[Excerpts] In other areas of the country, such as La Paz, Intibuca, Atlantida, and so on, the situation is even more discouraging, and agriculture is in no position to provide more jobs for a variety of reasons, among them the stagnation in agrarian activity and the irrational use of the country's natural resources.

Although there have been no specific studies making it possible to determine the features of that deterioration, some recent partial studies indicate that unemployment is affecting urban and rural areas equally.

Quoting from the preliminary document drawn up by CONSUPLANE--which, according to its officials, and contrary to what we reported yesterday, does not yet enjoy official status--it is determined that open unemployment amounts to 15.2 percent in Tegucigalpa and 13.8 percent in San Pedro Sula.

In the Department of La Paz, according to the official figures, seasonal unemployment in agriculture is affecting 53 percent of the workers.

In Atlantida, over 29,000 compatriots are looking for a wage-paying job.

Unemployment Versus Hope

Most unemployed Hondurans are struggling between the hope of obtaining a job either in private enterprise or in the public sector and the harsh reality imposed by the inability of the country's production apparatus to create new jobs.

A "household survey" conducted in San Pedro Sula and Tegucigalpa shows that about 75 percent of all those unemployed have been laid off, while the remaining 25 percent consists of those seeking a job for the first time.

Layoffs have occurred in all of the country's production sectors, but the greatest effect has been felt in the social services: that is, municipal and personal services, where the layoffs account for about 29 percent of the total unemployment figure.

Another 22 percent reflects the loss of jobs in hotels, restaurants, and wholesale and retail trade, while layoffs in the manufacturing industry add another 21 percent, making a total, when other, smaller percentages are added in, of 39 percent of all those unemployed because of layoffs.

A large number of the laid-off workers have been without a job for over 1 year, according to the survey. It is also reported that in the rural areas, 75 percent of the workers are totally unemployed outside the agricultural season.

It is also pointed out that workers seeking a job for the first time are basically young people: 91 percent of them are between the ages of 10 and 29.

Measures

CONSEPLAN's preliminary document agrees with Honduran sociologist Guillermo Molina Utriana when it discusses the measures adopted so far to counteract unemployment. The document says:

"There have been very few specific actions to date for solving these problems. Specific objectives, policies, and employment measures have been enunciated, but they have not reached the point of being considered by those responsible for carrying them out. As a consequence, the generation of jobs has continued to be the residual effect of action taken by various sectors whose priority objectives have not included employment."

The document adds: "The very form of laws and incentives for investment and production, as well as the orientation of economic policy measures, have not been suitable for increasing the employment level or for reaching the economic sectors most seriously affected."

[10 Nov 83 p 31]

[Excerpt] Data from the Ministry of Labor and Social Security show that 26 national firms have requested permission to shut down their activities temporarily for various reasons this year, and this is helping to increase the number of unemployed in the country, whereas there is an urgent need for such measures as an acceleration of agrarian reform and the implementation of an emergency employment plan to resolve the critical situation.

Stagnation in both public and private investment, the shortage of foreign exchange, the loss of markets for a number of exportable products, and other factors are some of the reasons leading the firms to request temporary closing.

It is pointed out that "the applications for a temporary suspension of work contracts have necessarily increased over the past few years, with more and more workers being increasingly affected."

According to data processed by the Ministry of Labor and Social Security and tabulated during the first quarter of each year, the picture is as follows:

Factors of unemployment	1981	1982	1983
Number of firms applying	16	20	22
Number of applications submitted	18	22	26
Number of workers laid off	2,856	3,209	5,234
Total man-days lost	81,805	88,729	1,081,666
Average man-days lost per worker	29	28	207

As can be seen from the table, most of the applications by firms to close temporarily were approved by the Ministry of Labor and Social Security, ostensibly taking into account the reasons mentioned before: falling prices, lack of markets, and so on.

According to the document to which we have been referring, "the above-mentioned situation has affected employment and the working conditions of the workers both directly and indirectly, this as a consequence of the decline in their incomes and, consequently, in their purchasing power.

"Based on the applications received through March and applying the lowest minimum wages in effect, it is estimated that workers failed to collect wages--for reasons unrelated to their ability to work--amounting to at least 4,475,700 Lempiras in 1983 alone."

Emergency Measures

The Association of Economists of Honduras, labor organizations, and experts at CEREPIAH have agreed in recommending emergency measures for solving the problem.

Among those measures, we can mention the arranging of financing for the Emergency Employment Plan, which is to include the execution of labor-intensive projects for the construction of dams, access roads, soil conservation works, small family plots, housing, and so on.

Other initiatives include accelerating the process of agrarian reform so as to promote investment by localizing ownership, with full attention being paid not only to title transfers but also to the supplying of technical assistance, loans, marketing, training, and economic and social infrastructure for all beneficiaries directly associated with the program.

Another measure is the reorientation of the country's Forest Social System, which is administered by COPDEFOR (Honduran Corporation for Forest Development), by altering the operational and conceptual framework to include the "diversification of production by forest-farming groups and the development and stimulation of small and medium-sized forest industries and crafts."

Also needed is a definite plan for rehabilitating the nation's coffee growing, as well as the establishment of special lines of credit for small and medium-sized industries and crafts, the allocation of financing for conducting regular surveys of households and businesses, and, what seems most important, the incorporation of CEREPIAH and the Economic Office into the Ministry of Labor and Social Security.

In the central Directorate of Employment, whose work has not been as fruitful as was hoped, a Department of Analysis and Planning should be set up as that Directorate's technical unit.

These measures, if they were really taken seriously, could relieve the critical problem of unemployment, which is tending to grow much worse in our country and which must be solved before the situation becomes even worse and more thousands of Hondurans join a vast mass of unemployed workers who, in such a situation, would be afflicted by the poverty, hunger, malnutrition, and endemic illiteracy with which we are already having to cope.

LT/44
OSU: 5748/27

SEAGA OFFERS ADDITIONAL RATIONALE FOR 'SNAP ELECTIONS'

Development Plans

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 28 Nov 83 pp 1, 11

[Text] Would be investors held the view that since the Government had two more years left it would have been better for them "to kotch and wait" but this attitude would have proven detrimental to the various plans the Jamaica Labour Party had for the country's development, according to Prime Minister Edward Seaga, as he explained one of the reasons for calling snap elections for December 15 this year.

He said: "With all the plans we had in place for production, everybody was saving, we better kotch, we better wait. And the two year period we would have to sit down and wait. Sit down and wait while we have all these things ready and you, the people, would come to me and saying where is the work and the money."

"I would then have to say to you, the investors are not investing because they are waiting for elections and they're not going to invest before they see how the next five years go. Well I decide we're not going to wait. I decide we want that five years now."

Mr. Seaga told this to thousands of bell-ringing supporters at Half Way Tree Square, St. Andrew, on Saturday night when he announced the election and nomination dates.

The JLP wanted the five years now because the Party could not afford to wait and the Jamaican people could also not afford to wait, he said.

Eight years were wasted during the '70s, the country had two good years in 1981 and 1982 and it was a setback this year and Jamaica did not deserve any more setbacks; the Jamaican people could not afford to wait any longer, Mr. Seaga said.

"We want a free road before us so that everybody may feel free so that they can invest because it means five more years before us that we can travel on the same road to prosperity and growth and the restoration of the economy," he declared.

Mr. Seaga said one of his Ministers remarked to him that when the PNP was in power he had hope because the LP was going to take over but when the LP was in power he did not have any hope because it was the PNP that was going to take over.

"We are deciding here tonight, in calling these elections, to say to the people of Jamaica: let us continue on the road that we have started and put the good things that we have brought to this level of development. We plant the tree, it has grown, it's about to bear fruit, but we hear about a man coming with a spray that can kill it. We want that tree to live, want it to grow and prosper and we want the fruit," he said.

Mr. Seaga said that that was why he called the election so that the people of Jamaica could take that decision.

He said two things ran through his heart when the PNP issued the statement calling for his resignation as Minister of Finance, making allegations against his own integrity and honesty.

One of the things was the feeling of great resentment and anger that "anybody could challenge my honesty and integrity but the other feeling was great joy that they had made such a move because it gave me the chance to go to the country and say 'let us go to elections.'

God moves in a mysterious way his wonders to perform. Nobody will ever convince me that destiny is not at work; nobody can convince me that there is not a powerful force at work over the last two months. Can it be just a coincidence that all the things that happened in Grenada happened when an American task force with 2,000 marines heading for Lebanon that they could have been diverted to Grenada? It is destiny at work. God moves in a mysterious way his wonders to perform."

"And when somebody moves; some little feeble minded person in the PNP; some idiot; some moral dwarf to question my honesty and integrity. It is destiny that they should have challenged because God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform."

"Tonight I summon the people of this country to decide who has the authority to run the country. I challenge those who want to challenge that authority. I challenge those who challenge us to challenge that authority. We will find that out on election day on the 15th of December," Mr. Seaga declared to shouts of "Eddie we ready, we ready."

They better be ready and prepared with everything at hand because Nomination Day would be Tuesday, November 29, Mr. Seaga said.

Telling his elections were called so quickly and not in January he said that the LP did not want to hold any elections after the 15th of December because the tourist season was to start on that day and "we have to fix up our business before it starts" and it would be an act of irresponsibility for the LP to hold elections during the tourist season.

we want no Cubans for Christmas."

He said that he had hoped to see the day when the leaders of the PNP, Mr. P. J. Patterson and Mr. Michael Manley, told the people of Jamaica that the very first act they would do if they were elected once again was to bring back the Cubans to Jamaica.

The HLP realigned its foreign policy with its foreign policy, he said, to "expand and shores of 'Soviet' in the Caucasus, east side the Russians." The growths cramming the Upper Rind section and the Park at Half

...telling what happened when a country's foreign policy was not in line with its domestic policy. Mr. Seng recalled the time in the 1960s, when members of the PNP Government were former Ministers of Defense. Mr. Seng went to Washington to seek money for a project that was about to collapse and at the same time Mr. Manley was in the same position in Washington.

"That loss of alignment; that inability mesh so that we work hand in hand, hand, also shows up today in the PNP between what they call the moderates and the radicals; between what they call the moderates and the leftwing, as if these two things can co-exist in any one organisation without some rupture taking place."

It showed up also, he said, when these so called moderates tell the people of Jamaica that they would not have anything to do with Communists any more, they would not have anything to do with radicals any more, throwing out the WPJ who must have no more association with them; but when they had finished throwing out the local Communists, it was the foreign Communists that they had gone to visit.

"It is the foreign Communists in Cuba and the Soviet Union that they have gone to visit while they say that they are not dealing with the local ones; because you can see when they deal with the local ones but you can't see when they deal with the foreign ones."

That was why, Mr. Sea-

The Prime Minister said the PNP had told the people that they were now a moderate Party, but at the same time that they had been telling all this, they were sending their emissaries and delegates to foreign conferences in the region where they were working with the Communist and radical parties to try to organise a union of strength among them so that they could deal with all those other parties in the world that would not subscribe to and support radical revolutionary parties.

"We wouldn't have known of this because when they leave they don't tell you where they're going. We would not have learned of this had we not captured some documents and brought them back and expose them to the people here."

Mr. Seaga said that the captured documents showed that the same PNP that was telling the people of Jamaica that they were moderates and they were not Communists, were the very same ones who were meeting with the Revolutionary radicals and Marxist Communists in Nicaragua. The documents also showed that they, together with those who were there, decided that they were going to send a delegation to Europe to speak with the Socialist Parties there to try to convince them that the Communists out there were not so bad.

Who is the key man? Who is the key shot? Your delegation featured very prominently the leader of the Opposition. When the Government asked for him in Parliament this week at a time when the country was tabling its most important economic measures, where was he? — leading the delegation to plea for the Socialist Marxist-Leninist radical revolutionaries in this region, Mr Seaga said.

There was one said, Mr Manley was not here when the documents were called.

It was this same national schizophrenia; the split personality that exist had led up to what happened in Grenada, a tiny replica of Jamaica, and what would have happened in Jamaica, had not the people stopped it in 1980.

The documents that were locked up in safe places marked "secret" and were no longer safe when the revolution took

place. Mr Seaga said, showed that they were going to build in Grenada, an army of 18 battalions of 10,000 men which was five times the size of the Jamaican army. One out of every five men in Grenada would have been in the army.

The airport walls and roof of concrete were one foot thick and as an army man told him that it was not an airport but a bomb shelter. The documents also told of plans to nationalise businesses in the country; to seize all trade; take over lands and turn them into state farms that everybody would be working for the Government; plans to deal with the Church because it was gaining too much popularity.

Mr Seaga explained to cheering, election spirited crowd that it did not need any secret documents to tell about the radio station which was more powerful than any radio station in the Caribbean and far more powerful than RJK and IBC put together, aimed at spreading propaganda throughout the region against the other islands and their leaders.

The people within those countries, in talking

for the propaganda, would carry out acts of resistance, be ready to be trained in acts of subversion against their Governments and to train them not to be construction workers but to be destruction workers.

Mr. Seaga said that when the military operation was carried out in Grenada, it was not the Grenadians who were fighting but the Cubans who were fighting.

He said that the Grenadians cried out for help and every man standing at the meeting was proud that the Government decided to help.

"We responded not just because it's a sister Caribbean territory; we responded because we know that if the mad men who had taken over were allowed to consolidate the revolution, then they would start to pick off all the other little islands one by one, moving up the line until they came to Jamaica.

It was to the credit of the Jamaica Labour Party Government and when it was in Opposition that when the revolution occurred in Grenada they went on record as saying that revolution breeds revolution and that was what happened.

There is a lesson of life that has us to thank for his life today, there is a certain person in Jamaica that has you to thank for his life today. If he was not a Communist, he has us to thank for his life but if he was a Communist, you have us to thank for your life," Mr. Seaga declared to the ringing of bells and shouts.

Mr. Seaga said that he would have thought that at the Opposition Party of the country was given the chance of meeting with the Vice President of the United States that they would be talking about something that was constructive for the country, but they told the Vice President in October that if they became the Government of the country, they would bring Estrada and the Cubans back to Jamaica.

"My brothers and sisters, Jamaicans, who are gathered here tonight and there are thousands listening to television sets and radios across Jamaica let it be known, I call my election so that we can tell them we want no Cubans for Christmas," Mr. Seaga said which attracted loud shouts of approval reverberating through the entire square.

GOVERNMENT PARTY-PNP CONTINUES

Invited to the HWT by Mr. Seaga on November 24, 1980.

[Text]

Mr. John Haughton, Chairman of the South West St. Andrew Executive of the communist Workers Party has written to Miss Portia Simpson who has been M.P. for St. Andrew South West up to the dissolution of Parliament today, inviting her to meet with him to discuss a joint effort between the PNP

and the WJP to increase money allocated for Amas work, the method of distribution "according to need rather than party affiliation," the work programmes, and the involvement of "broad-based" citizens and church organisations.

In a letter dated November 24, Mr. Haughton

launched a strong attack on the policies of the JLP Government stating that the devaluation measures were going to "bring down the most wicked oppression and hardships on all the Jamaican people."

JAMAICA'S POSITION ON DEVALUATION CALLED INTO QUESTION

Parliamentary Discussion

Extract from THE DAILY GLEANER in English 26 Nov. 83 p. 29

[Text]

Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Edward Seaga, said in the House of Representatives on Wednesday that no increases of basic food items would be accepted over the next six months on the basis of the new rate of exchange, which was announced by him during his report to the nation.

Mr. Seaga, responding to questions from Leader of Opposition Business in the House, Mr. Seymour Mullings, said that so far as the import costs were concerned, there would be no increase in basic food items; however, there would be some small element of increase resulting from transport cost due to the rise in fuel price.

He said that if the price of wheat or oil went up in the United States, nonetheless nothing could be done about it.

Following is an account of the discussion.

Mr. Mullings: What the Prime Minister has called this House to announce is a 77 per cent devaluation of the Jamaican dollar.

The Speaker: I have always been at pains to indicate to Members of the House that a statement is not a motion. Questions are asked for clarification and I'll ask that we do not make a statement in our endeavour to ask questions. If you are going to ask your question, Mr. Mullings, ask the question for clarification without any preamble.

Mr. Mullings: My freedom to ask questions in this House is seriously limited if I can't preface with reference to this very empty statement. The only total matter that has been brought to the attention of the House.

The Speaker: I am not going to allow any further statements at this time; if you're asking a question for clarification, it's o.k.

Mr. Mullings: A portion of the statement just made by the Prime Minister reads: "All in all, the conclusion of the discussions with the IMF which have resulted in the decision to discontinue the Extended Fund Facility and substitute a 15 month Stand-by arrangement and the agreement to a unification of the Jamaica dollar by devaluing the official rate to \$3.15 will provide a wide range of positive economic impact on which 1984 can proceed to build a stronger economy." In view of this positive statement, suggesting that the devaluing of the Jamaican dollar by 77 percent has overall positive implications for the Jamaican economy, why is it that the Minister of Finance and the Prime Minister negotiated the conclusion of the Extended Fund Facility Agreement and the commencement of the Stand-by Facility in a situation where the IMF itself demanded a unification of the Jamaican dollar? Why is it that if it has so many positive implications for the Jamaican economy, the Prime Minister has been so dilatory? Why has he waited until now to do this?

The Prime Minister: The negotiations proceeded on the basis of securing the maximum amount of benefits by minimising the negatives. He will recall that I explained that many of the negatives will not be implemented but rather will be delayed by various mechanisms such as subsidies etc. Those had to be negotiated. If we went into the discussions with the IMF without any negotiations, we would have come away with many more negatives than we have achieved.

Hon. Percy Broderick (Minister of Agriculture): In view of the importance of the statement made by the Prime Minister and in view of the questions asked by my Honourable colleague, it would be proper for the House to be informed where the Leader of the Opposition happens to be when a matter of such great importance is being discussed in the House.

The Speaker (to Mr. Mullings): I don't regard the question asked a while ago. You have the right to ask one for clarification.

Mr. Mullings: The Prime Minister has asserted in his statement that because of the operations of the parallel market over these many months that the increase in the costs to the consumer will be very insignificant. Can we get a categorical and unequivocal statement from the Prime Minister that within the next six months the price of no basic food items will increase?

The Prime Minister: In so far as the import costs are concerned, no basic food item will be increased over the next six months. I indicated that with the cost of transport to take the goods from the wharf as a result of an increase arising out of transportation fuel there will be some small element of increase, arising out of transport cost; and other areas where electricity is used. But in so

far as the importation costs of basic food items are concerned, then in the next six months no price increases will be accepted as a result of the new rate of exchange. If the price of oil or wheat goes up in the United States, it's not something we can avoid.

Mr. Mullings: May I ask the Prime Minister whether it is proposed, whatever source that maintains the price of petroleum even in spite of increase in crude oil from Venezuelan sources, whether this source will be able to stabilise the price of petroleum products and whether we can expect an increase in the price of gasoline?

The Prime Minister: I am sorry that the Member was not totally listening. I said that we are looking at the impact of the movement of crude oil prices as well as marginal shifts in the exchange rate from \$2.96, or whatever was the prevailing value at the time, in order to determine how long we will be able to maintain the present level, because inevitably the price increase will come.

Mr. Mullings: In view of the implications which the devaluation, increase in the subsidy and other factors announced by the Prime Minister, have for the fiscal budget, may I ask how early the country can expect the tabling of the 1983/84 Budget?

The Prime Minister: The Member may not be versed in the calendar of presentation to Parliament of fiscal budgets. Fiscal budgets are presented once per year and a supplementary is presented sometimes once, mostly twice.

Mr. Mullings: Can we anticipate the first tabling of the Supplementary Estimate before this (the end of)calendar year?

The Prime Minister: That depends on a very important decision which I have to take with regard to Parliament sittings for the rest of the year.

Business Community Reactions

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 26 Nov 83 p 23

[Text]

Mixed reactions to the devaluation of the Jamaican dollar and the likely spin-offs, as announced by Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Edward Seaga, on Wednesday, came yesterday from the Jamaica Manufacturers Association, the Jamaica Exporters Associa-

tion, the Jamaica Chamber of Commerce, the Jamaica Bankers Association and the Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica.

Reactions ranged from outright endorsement of the move to guarded optimism with a "wait and see"

approach based on reservations about a negative impact on the productive sector and consumers.

Mr. Roy Collister, President of the PSOJ, told the *Gleaner* before going to preside over the annual general meeting of the Organisation, that they had been doing their own analysis of the economy and the conclusion arrived at was that measures such as what the Prime Minister announced were exactly what was needed, given the condition of the economy.

"As we had arrived at the same conclusions as the Government, we could hardly not support them," he said.

Personally, Mr. Collister said, the measures adopted were the ones he had advocated for a very long time. It was "absolutely essential" to make this system work effectively and certainly if the present rate of exchange was to be held, every dollar available must come into the system.

Emphasising the need for the private sector to co-operate so that the new rate would hold, he added that if it did not work "we'll all have ourselves to be blamed".

On the dismantling of the licensing and quota regime, Mr. Collister said the system had been a problem to the private sector for years so the private sector could only welcome this measure in principle.

"We don't think that a bureaucracy can effectively manage that sort of system. We think that it is absolutely essential that, given the new freedom and that illicit imports will be strictly controlled, we cannot continue to go on with the system as existed in the past".

He said he did not think that the negative outweighed the positive aspects of the devaluation. What the positives represented was the country facing economic reality while on the negatives, nobody obviously liked increased costs of gas and electricity but the fact was that these things used up scarce foreign exchange and the country must be able to pay a realistic price for them.

The President of the JEA, Mr. Geoffery Messado, welcomed the new exchange measures which he said had removed the "disincentives" to earners of foreign exchange that had existed over recent months.

"We welcome the announcement of the unification of the exchange rates of the Jamaican dollar. This will allow exporters to receive proceeds at the same rate of exchange as the cost of their inputs," Mr. Messado said.

Dismantling of the import quota and the import licensing systems would hopefully eliminate the obstacle that exporters had been having in obtaining raw materials. He said that this procedure should be implemented with immediate effect.

"We have been requesting that net earners of hard currency have unimpeded access to the proceeds of their foreign exchange earnings to enable them to finance all their foreign exchange-dominated requirements. This is now facilitated by the ability to maintain foreign exchange accounts with their commercial banks," he said.

Mr. Messado said that with all new measures, time was required to work out the necessary details and to obtain clarification of the specific working of the new system.

"There are many areas that need further clarification for implementation and over the next few days the Association will be holding dialogue with various sectors to obtain detailed information."

Arising from these measures, he said he hoped that the Export Development Fund would be fully revived and he pledged the Association's support and co-operation in achieving the increased earning of much-needed foreign exchange.

JMA President Mr. R.

Anthony Williams said that the Association had not studied all the areas of the Prime Minister's statement and a more detailed response would be given at its Exports Awards banquet tonight.

Speaking on some areas which he said needed comment, however, Mr. Williams noted that it was "logical and appropriate" that the exchange rate should be unified but that although J\$3.15 to US\$1 had been given as the new rate, this would be allowed to float on a daily basis within a 15 cent range on either side.

Based on the fact that resort hotels would be likely to have high occupancy during this U.S. Thanksgiving week-end, there would be an increase in the foreign exchange supply in the commercial banks next week and therefore it was expected that the rate would fall below \$3.10 buying and \$3.15 selling rates at least during that week.

"This new rate however poses an immediate and severe problem for the manufacturing sector. This sector will suffer very large devaluation losses. This has been compounded by the fact that since May we

have been forced to invoice our CARICOM exports in Jamaican dollars at J \$2.25 to U.S.\$1.00 while financing our raw materials through the Export Development Fund in U.S. dollars which now carries a \$3.15 rate.

"The JMA will therefore be proposing that manufacturers be allowed to repay U.S. dollars outstanding to the EDF for CARICOM transactions as at yesterday's (Wednesday's) date at a rate of J\$2.25 to U.S.\$1.00. In addition, we would be seeking clarification about the basis on which non-essential items will be allowed into the country with a view of ensuring that foreign exchange will be available for purchases of priority items such as raw materials".

Mr. Williams said it appeared that the overall measures could be of "tremendous" benefit to the manufacturing sector, provided these were coupled with an industrial development policy and incentives to encourage

increased local value-added production and accelerated exports.

Jamaica Bankers Association President Mr. Ron Sasso said the announcement by the Prime Minister was going to open up "some new and interesting doors" for manufacturing opportunities in Jamaica as they relate to the productive sector.

"I think they're really great. I would like to believe that a relaxation of the licensing and the quota system and the new market that's going to be created at the increased rates is going to give a new life and incentive to the whole foreign exchange market which will rebound to the benefit of the whole economy".

There was a growing picture in 1983 of parallel market inflows into the banking system to the stage where in June they had reached U.S.\$40 million per month, and, given the incentives, "we are going to see a real resurgence of foreign exchange in the banking system".

He said that the black market would always be around and was not going to change; however it was

a question of where the black marketeers were going to level off in their rates. "There is a certain point where you reach in the exchange rate where it triggers to a stop, reflecting what the consumer could take in terms of cost," he said.

"If the bands within which the Bank of Jamaica is setting for us to operate our exchange rate are given some latitude, we can get pretty close to the black market rate. This measure should have been done a long time ago".

The President of the Jamaica Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Bruce Rickards, said that the private sector welcomed the unification of the exchange rates as it was becoming onerous in dealing with four or five different rates with their obvious disincentives to certain sectors, particularly the hotel and manufacturing sector.

However, he said there was a need for clarification on the "no quotas or licences" for manufacturers because it did leave a question sign as to how it would be administered.

Columnist's Critique

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 27 Nov 83 p 9A

[Article by Mark Ricketts]

[Text]

Listening to the Prime Minister's latest policy measures which he announced before Parliament on Wednesday some people might take comfort in the fact that, "better late than never" while there are those of us who will argue too little too late.

The road to devaluation has been strewn with disasters and now that we have eventually reached a unification of rates — a more benign term than devaluation — it is going to be difficult to pick up the pieces. In fact one could be tempted to say it's a sorry sight indeed.

Like Britain's **Harold Wilson** in the late sixties and **Michael Manley** in the mid-seventies Jamaica kept postponing the inevitable and so by the time we do what needs to be done, untold grief has already afflicted the society. Moreover the cost of delaying the implementation of a more appropriate exchange rate pricing is a fall in the Jamaican dollar to levels much lower than the Prime Minister has announced.

The cost to Britain when it delayed devaluing Sterling in the late sixties was a flight out of sterling as well as the utilization of all its reserves to shore up a weak currency. On top of that Prime Minister Wilson got IMF to devise a plethora of lending schemes (many of which we have used recently) in order to stabilize sterling. After exhausting his reserves and utilizing all the funding facilities from IMF and European Central Banks, Wilson had to do what everyone knew, apart from the Prime Minister, had to be done. And Britain took years to recover and was eventually bailed out by North Sea Oil.

Mr. Michael Manley, even after overseeing serious losses in purchasing power of the Jamaican dollar arising from a 500 per cent increase in domestic credit within a three year period and a 70 per cent increase in money supply, still screamed and kicked when it came to the question of devaluation. He created dual exchange rates, he introduced crawling peg devaluation, he unified the rates and he got Prime Minister Callaghan and Trudeau to do some arm twisting of IMF to minimize the extent of the devaluation. When quite a sizeable devaluation occurred it did boost domestic agriculture and aid

in the rebound in tourism but it was too late to arrest the fiscal excesses and curb the politicization of economics.

Warning signs

Now the eighties find us running up a merchandise trade deficit (imports in excess of exports) of what will amount to, for the four-year period ending this year, some \$3.6 billion or what the BBC would read as \$3,600 million. At the same time we have experienced a shortfall in expected capital inflows. On top of that our production for export has been falling and the currency, the US dollar, to which our currency has been tied has been the strongest currency around for the last four years. This forced a devaluation or depreciation of all other countries currency against the US dollar, except in a few cases such as ourselves, Trinidad and Haiti.

But by not heeding the warning signs for so long and trying to avoid the inevitable we come up with a series of concoctions which hurt us badly. In fact it could be said that much of the damage has not yet been counted or accounted for.

In the first place our CARICOM rate put our manufacturers at a significant disadvantage vis-a-vis other member nations.

Secondly our quota/license system introduced in January gave Trinidad the excuse to do likewise and now we are experiencing untold grief penetrating that market.

Quota revision

Thirdly our stop and start policies in the area of quota and quota revision, license validation and revalidation, foreign exchange pricing and non-pricing, bank allocated quota system and non-bank mobilization of dollars have done much to destroy confidence, legitimacy and morality in the society. It was like a crap game with not even the house, much less the main players, having any idea what the rules were on a daily basis.

Fourthly the use of the word parallel market was itself an injudicious term since it gave way to the vernacular of paralyzed market with all its pejorative connotations of ineffectiveness and powerlessness to arrest such things as price increases. It placed us all in a

passive state leaving the system to take the blame. Then there were the exchange regulation acts involving massive amount of fines in the event of late or inadequate reporting of foreign exchange transactions. But all this merely led to a changing perception of risk and the undermining of confidence in one's currency which would eventually result in us treating our currency no better than confetti.

The net effect of the foregoing was to place an unnecessarily high premium on the US dollar, a premium associated more with uncertainty, risk and hoarding than with purchasing power parity. And it is this fact more than anything else why a devaluation that is delayed costs a society so dearly. And so even now Prime Minister Seaga's massive 77% devaluation will prove to be inadequate since the effective exchange rate pricing associated with risk and hoarding have already pushed us to the \$3.50 to \$4 level.

This means that the government will have to go to at least \$3.40 if it is serious about dealing with the foreign exchange crisis. Had the Prime Minister taken this step in January when he introduced the parallel market, his \$3.15 would have been relevant then and would still be applicable today. Had he taken it last year \$2.80 would have worked. But when you have a sore and you allow it to fester, using home remedies because you are afraid of the needle on your buttocks, the ultimate cure when you finally decide to go and see the doctor is no longer the needle but the scalpel. And as the doctor would say, "it is going to hurt now but it has to be done."

The massive though less than adequate amount of devaluation will do two things. In the first place it will provide many of the benefits to the sectors identified by the Prime Minister. However, it will mean that transactions will continue to operate outside the banking system and we will end up returning to the old no funds system--which in reality might not be such a bad thing. In addition the less than realistic pricing of the dollar will mean that scarcity of foreign exchange will continue to plague the official monetary system including the commercial banks.

In addition to devaluation the government should have presented a mini-budget which included sharp reductions in indirect taxes so as to offer some breaks to consumers ravaged by high prices and to provide some stimulus to overall business activity which is in the doldrums at the moment.

It is good to see, however, that the Prime Minister has allowed the opening up of accounts denominated in foreign assets. This is something I have been advocating for over a year.

It's also good to see that the Prime Minister is prepared (I hope) to dismantle the bungling bureaucracy associated with quotas and licences.

The real pity in the announcement is that the Prime Minister seems to find it difficult to communicate to the peo-

ple the real cost of these new measures as well as the fact that it's a hard road ahead before we can come to grips with some of our problems. He allows too much sugar coating on the pill when what we are dealing with is worm tablets or worm medicine. This is pain which can't be easily subsumed by promises.

Another failing is that he allowed the situation to deteriorate too badly before taking the kind of strong measures that are necessary. And by waiting the price is even higher and the adjustment that is required is going to be even greater than what was presented in Parliament on Wednesday. But to be philosophical I suppose we could say it is good to see that at least a start has been made.

BANANA GROWERS WILL GET INCENTIVE BONUS PAYMENTS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 26 Nov 83 p 12

[Text]

QUALITY INCENTIVE BONUSES totalling about \$440,000 will be paid to more than 15,000 banana growers by December 9, the Hon. Dr. Percival Broderick, Minister of Agriculture, told the "Farmers' Weekly" on Thursday.

The farmers to benefit are those who have earned over the minimum standard of 65% of units shipped to the United Kingdom within agreed-on specifications.

Dr. Broderick also said that the boost to the industry has come about as a result of the unification of the official and parallel rates of exchange, and will facilitate farmers in the financing of needed fertilizers and other inputs to aid the maintenance of high quality production.

During Prime Minister Edward Seaga's speech to the House of Representatives on Wednesday in which he announced the devaluation of the Jamaican dollar, he said that one of the benefits of the devaluation would be an estimated \$11 million to the banana industry — "quite large" — he said, and that would go toward reducing the losses of the Banana Company.

In his statement to the **Farmers' Weekly** Dr. Broderick said:

● **"AS A RESULT OF REPRESENTATIONS** made to me, I have instructed the Banana Company to pay quality incentive bonuses due and payable for improved quality under the Company's Incentive Scheme.

"Payment will be made on December 9, 1983, and will benefit over 15,000 farmers who have earned over the minimum standard set of 65% of units shipped to the United Kingdom within agreed-on specifications.

"This boost to the industry has come about as a result of the unification of the official and parallel rates of exchange, and will facilitate farmers in the financing of needed fertilizer and other inputs towards maintaining the high quality and increased volume which have been features of the industry in 1983 to date.

● **"I have instructed that payments declared in the future be made on a timely basis so that farmers can more immediately benefit from the incentives earned."**

A spokesman for the Banana Company said yesterday that the amount to be paid out at this time was about \$440,000, and that the matter of outstanding payments for for quality incentives "was being addressed" and it is believed that payments may be possible early next year.

CONTROVERSY OVER MERITS OF DEVALUATION CONTINUES

GLENER Brain Trust Views

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 30 Nov 83 pp 1, 23

[Text]

The devaluation of the Jamaican dollar has positive and negative implications for the Jamaican consumer and manufacturer according to a **Gleaner Brains Trust** held on Monday.

The Brains Trust panel comprising public and private sector representatives, felt though that the measure was a bit late in coming and if an official devaluation had been instituted earlier in the year Jamaica may well now be in a better economic position.

One member of the panel expressed concern at the "timing" of the devaluation. He said that in his opinion, "a devaluation of the Jamaican economy had been on the cards for a long, long time. "If the rationale behind effecting a devaluation now is to attract foreign investment capital then why didn't we do it before"? he asked.

"We lost out as far as I am concerned, by not devaluing the Jamaican dollar earlier, because the flight of capital out of the country has been tremendous. We may have avoided this if we had devalued earlier".

The member said that he felt the effect of the devaluation will be an adverse one especially for the Jamaican consumer because he said, "the price of consumer goods is bound to soar drastically".

He explained: "Naturally, devaluation will mean adjustments in the prices of just about everything and although in the past Government was able to subsidise a number of items thus cushioning the blow on consumers, the Government now has a resource problem and I don't see how it can cushion anything. Where will it get the money"?

Another member felt that organisations such as the Jamaica Commodity Trading Corporation will in the face of the devaluation, be "more hard-pressed to look cheaper markets for food and so on and whatever profits they were making before they may now have to use up to subsidise prices. In any case I expect the underline rate would be almost unbearable".

The member noted that although a number of items bought by the JCTC had been shifted to the parallel market earlier this year the prices of many of them had not then been increased proportionately, though the Corporation had to pay for them at the parallel market rate of exchange.

"Government has been cushioning that impact" he declared, "but in recent months a number of staples have been reaching the shops late simply because Government just did not have the money to pay for them".

"It is getting increasingly impossible for Government to maintain what amounts to a hidden subsidy and with the official devaluation of the dollar, the price increases are going to hit the consumers soon".

The member expressed the view that if the Jamaican dollar had been devalued in the first quarter of 1983 "we may have got away with a rate levelling off at somewhere between J\$2.50 or J\$3.00 to US\$1".

His main grouse the member said, was the fact that "Government had not been frank with the people. If they had explained the country's economic problems the people would not have been caught off guard. A great deal of wasting has been going on and I really feel that this would not have happened if people realised that the country was in grave problems and conservation in every respect was of paramount importance".

"Another thing, in his address to parliament the Prime Minister somehow gave the impression that quotas and licences have been abandoned and we are now free to import anything and everything. And that is a wrong impression. How can it be? Government must control the importation of items that are not necessary to life. We simply haven't got the money to open up imports here".

Another member saw the devaluation as particularly beneficial to the foreign investor. He said that the parallel market had not really adversely affected this sector since "their foreign exchange was always worth a great deal. What affected them though, was the uncertainty of the rate at which they would be allowed to

remit their money. So, having brought it in, the average investor was in a quandary as to how to price his products taking into account all his costs...costs which he could not even compute because the parallel market kept bobbing up and down".

"Even the investor who really had no intention of taking his money out of the country was affected psychologically by the uncertain market situation".

The member noted that a lot of interest in Jamaica has resulted from the passing of the Caribbean Basin Initiative putting Jamaica in a "very advantageous position" but many were a bit wary because of what they saw as an unstable economic situation. But, she said, "the devaluation of the Jamaican dollar may well instill some degree of stability in the foreign exchange market as well as the economy as a whole".

Yet another member posed a rhetorical question "When is a devaluation not a devaluation"? According to him a de-facto devaluation had taken place long before Mr. Seaga's announcement last week and as such he felt, a more correct word for the new measure should be "unification" of currencies.

The member said that "this unification of the rates of exchange holds great promise for much smoother

relations with our CARICOM partners and I feel, the manufacturing industry here will become much more competitive against imports".

"One must expect some adjustment in prices, and I hope, comparable adjustments in salaries. I feel too; that Government has a moral obligation to honour at previously existing rates agreements made by manufacturers based on those rates before the announcement of the devaluation of the Jamaican dollar".

"There are many who sought and got 365 days credit based on the old rates and priced their goods accordingly and some who got credit from the Export Development Fund (EDF) were literally forced to invoice CARICOM settlements in CARICOM currency even though they had to meet their debt payments in 'hard currency'. All these people stand to lose considerable sums of money due to the devaluation".

"Where there were undertakings given to manufacturers and importers that agreements would be honoured at a particular rate, this should be upheld".

"Government has a moral obligation to honour such arrangements", he declared.

Positive Assessment

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 1 Dec 83 pp 1, 11

[Text]

Positive The Devaluation of the Jamaican dollar may well have positive implications for the Jamaican economy as a whole according to a Gleaner Brains Trust held on Monday.

The panel was optimistic that the devaluation of the dollar may result in the "restoration of some stability to the local market situation".

One member was particularly anxious however, that the Jamaican manufacturers especially, "make the most of the new measures announced last week." He explained:

"Jamaica has had a history of failing to capitalise on devaluations. Our capital output ratio has always been much too high and unless our output increases, at least enough to make unit costs lower, we will still experience great difficulties."

"Production must increase greatly if this devaluation is to have the benefits it should."

Another member of the Brains Trust panel felt that "the Jamaica rates of exchange had been subsidised much too long and this has caused a laxness which has resulted in an underdeveloped domestic industry simply because it was always much cheaper to import foreign goods. What we have been doing, is taking foreign exchange flows into the country, subsidising those costs, all to the detriment of our potentially viable domestic industries."

The member was somewhat uncertain about the

rate at which the dollar has been devalued. He was concerned that the rate of US\$1 to J\$3.15 floating down to J\$3. or up to J\$3.30, may be "over-valued". But another member of the panel was confident that the rate had been realistically fixed. He explained:

"It is extremely important that we achieve correct equilibrium. We cannot have an under-valued currency since this will create even more problems than we even begin to deal with. We need to find the real value of the thing (the Jamaican dollar) and hold it there."

"We must look at market forces to indicate this equilibrium rate, and moderate or increase as it becomes necessary."

"It is impossible to have a devaluation without hurting someone. The challenge is to keep the pain to a minimum or to spread it as evenly as possible so that one person or one sector does not have to bear the burnt of the impact."

"Perhaps Government could in the light of this, look at offering some sort of short-term subsidy perhaps over a one-year adjustment period."

"It is particularly unfair to local producers who in a situation of fixed prices on certain products, cannot take up devaluation risks in calculating their prices."

He was ecstatic over what he termed "true floating rate" though he felt, "we would now be floating at a much lower level if devaluation had been instituted before now."

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 2 Dec 83 p 24

[Text]

The unification of the exchange rate will mean very large devaluation losses for manufacturers, according to Jamaica Manufacturers Association President, Mr. R. Anthony Williams.

Making an official comment on the devaluation of the Jamaica dollar announced by Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Edward Seaga in Parliament last week Wednesday, Mr. Williams restated his initial response to the measures that "the unification of the exchange rate is logical and appropriate."

Addressing the annual JMA Export Awards dinner at the Pegasus Hotel on Friday night, he called on the Government to honour its commitment and allow goods bought on 360 to 540 days credits to be paid for at the J\$1.78 rate equal to US\$1.

Prior to May CCARICOM rate settlement, he said that most Jamaican manufacturers invoiced their CARICOM customers in US dollars on the understanding that they would receive equivalent in Jamaican dollars at the prevailing rate at the date of settlement.

"Since May, however, we have been forced to invoice our CARICOM exports in Jamaican dollars at a \$2.25 rate. Our borrowings from the Export Development Fund (EDF) to fund raw materials for these CARICOM exports are in US dollars," Mr. Williams added.

As this now implies a rate of \$3.15, the JMA

recommends that manufacturers be allowed to repay US dollars outstanding to EDF for CARICOM transaction as at November 23 at a rate of J\$2.25 to US\$1.00.

In addition, he said there were manufacturers and importers who were encouraged by Government to seek 360 and 540 days credit for importation of goods which had been priced and sold at the J\$1.788 rate.

"We are requesting that Government honour its commitment and allow these goods to be paid for at the J\$1.788 rate," Mr. Williams said.

On the matter of the abolition of quotas and licences, one could not fault the Government for this move he said; however, it was important that this was coupled with an industrial development policy and incentives to encourage local production.

Mr. Williams said that the Government was seeking clarification about the basis on which non-essential items would be allowed into the country with the intention of ensuring that foreign exchange would be available for purchase of priority items such as raw materials.

Another step in the right direction was the new provisions which facilitated the operation of foreign currency deposit account with interest paid in foreign currency for both residents and non residents.

"We are proposing that some rethinking be done

on the contemplated restrictions on the use of these accounts with a view of encouraging Jamaican nationals abroad to open foreign currency accounts here," he noted.

Turning to CARICOM, Mr. Williams said that the view seemed to be held in the Government circles that manufacturers should downplay export thrust in the region because soft currency was being earned and it was claimed that what was needed was hard currency.

The manufacturing sector and the country had benefitted from CARICOM, not only in terms of increased production and employment but also by allowing Jamaica to use the so called "soft currency" to buy essential goods in the region.

During 1982, Mr. Williams said, 33.6 per cent of total imports from CARICOM consisted of petroleum products and 12 per cent consisted of cooking oil and soap. In other words, he said some 45.6 per cent (US\$41.3 million) of soft currency CARICOM imports into Jamaica was for essential goods which would otherwise have been purchased with hard currency.

The JMA was proposing that in order to indicate a special relationship with CARICOM partners, goods from that region should be allowed into Jamaica without licences while on the other hand, on a reciprocal basis Trin-

idad should be requested to abolish its licensing requirements for CARICOM goods.

Dealing with what he described as the celebrated letter of recent origin which indicated new penalties for exporters whose export proceeds were not remitted to Jamaica, Mr. Williams urged manufacturers to ensure that documentation of their export proceeds tallied with the Bank of Jamaica records.

He said very often proceeds had been brought back to Jamaica and deposited with the exporters' commercial banks but the documentation confirming this did not reach the Bank of Jamaica on time.

Noting that the vigilance with which the BOJ pursued the documentation slackened up to early this year, he admitted that some arrears did exist. Some exporters found it difficult to retrieve their proceeds in 90 days from date of shipment, he said recommending an amendment, indicating 90 days from contract due date or no more than 180 days from date of shipment.

CSO: 3298/279

DISCUSSION OF BUDGET DEFICIT; REVISED BUDGET CALLED FOR

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 4 Dec 83 p 1C

[Article by Raymond Forrest]

[Text] "Old habits are hard to die" it is said. The Government of Jamaica has long been accustomed to running a Budget deficit to maintain its size and influence in the economy. The present fiscal year (April 1, 1983-March 31, 1984) could finally see a large dent however in this habit as the Government makes a determined attempt to reduce its overall Current Account deficit to 12.8 percent of G.D.P. by the end of this fiscal year.

Over the past three years, in spite of significant improvements in tax and non-tax revenue and a decline in the overall Current Account deficit from 17.9% of G.D.P. in 1980/81 to 13.7% of G.D.P. in 1982/83 the Government failed to achieve the negotiated I.M.P. target of a deficit of 10% of G.D.P. by 1983/84. This forced it to renegotiate new deficit targets of 12.8% of G.D.P. for 1983/84, 11.3% of G.D.P. for 1984/5 and 10% of G.D.P. for 1985/86, thereby stretching out the original 10% target a further three years.

The end of this fiscal year could, however, see a significant breakthrough in controlling the size of the Budget deficit to more manageable proportions as several loss-making public enterprises have either been "shut-down", "re-structured" or "folded" in the face of less Budget support and insufficient Bank credits. J.A.M.A.L. has been phased out, the J.Q.S. is slowly winding up, the sugar industry is undergoing "restructuring" in the factory and field, and the Government has desisted from taking on any additional enterprises for quite a while now.

In addition to these measures many other perennial loss-making enterprises have been forced to take drastic steps to remain viable or to cut losses. Services in some areas have been reduced (e.g. the Jamaica Railway Corp., or the J.O.S. cutting out its Sunday Service for many of its fleet), or else the public is being asked to pay higher service charges (e.g. the National Water Commission's steep increase in consumer water rates.)

The extent of this control might not be readily apparent in the face of massive borrowings by the Central Government from the Bank of Jamaica but with

a decline in the revenue base and a reduction in the country's ability to raise much external loans for Budgetary support, the deficit is gradually being brought down to that 12.8% of G.D.P. target.

It cannot come too late in the day. The money to take such enterprises "out of the red" has to come from somewhere, whether from other government enterprises that make profits, through external or internal loans, or from "over-burdened" taxpayers. Crucial decisions have had to be taken but it's better to do so now than wait until a crisis situation before starting to make them.

In saying this one has to bear in mind that paper targets are always easy to achieve if we discard the human element involved i.e. those who work in these enterprises. This we cannot do however as the unemployment rate remains much too high for any Government to feel comfortable about. Shutdowns or redundancies (where they are necessary) will aggravate this already critical situation. Nevertheless a thin balance must be found. A surplus must come from somewhere to pay off a loss or we will forever be "borrowing from Peter to pay Paul" with the inevitable strain. In good times, it may be tolerable but in times of economic adversity (such as we are in) it cannot and should not be maintained for too long.

Proper accountability must be expected of those having access to public funds, both at the management level as well as at the worker level. The management audits being undertaken in several of these public enterprises are very useful but it must also be followed up by way of over-due financial audits in these and many other companies and government departments.

These developments will not solve the complex problems that plague many large public enterprises but at least it will help to satisfy the public that their taxes are being put to good use.

In the meanwhile one has to continue to press on the Government the important necessity for them to present the revised Budget figures to the nation. Until this task is done we cannot make a more exact analysis of the country's accounts. All of what I have written above could be drastically altered by the extent of this revised Budget

CSO: 3298/279

GOVERNMENT'S RECENT ECONOMIC MEASURES PRAISED; MORE NEEDED

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 4 Dec 83 p 10A

[Article by Mark Ricketts]

[Text] The measures announced by the government last week had two important components, namely the dismantling of the quota/licensing system as well as the introduction of a facility to allow some residents and non-residents to open fixed term foreign currency accounts.

While these are two very important developments, discussions with senior policy makers reveal an absence of precision and clarity regarding the operational aspects of the policy measures. And this feature of imprecision in programme development has plagued governments generally and usually result in a range of unintended consequences after implementation. This is manifested in the dog chasing the tail scenario where more and more policies are introduced to plug an increasing number of loopholes. Before long the system gets complicated, bureaucracy becomes the biggest growth industry and animosity develops between those bent on making the system work and those suffocated by the additional burden of excess regulation.

Before the government makes a big to do about its dismantling of licence/quota system and before there is too much euphoria in the private sector, it is to be hoped that a relatively simple approach based on a reasonable tidy foreign exchange cash budget and a full understanding of the relationship between micro economic interventions and macro economic consequences will be adopted. And as it stands now the less massive though than adequate devaluation combined with seriously low interest rates at the long end of the market will mean that the government's overly ambitious plans to dismantle the licensing/quota system will be stalled by the limited availability of foreign exchange.

In this way either the foreign exchange price will have to give to bring demand and supply in balance (i.e. to clear the market) or government will have to persist with some form of licencing/quota arrangement for several goods or for some sectors. Thus it behoves government to come prepared with more serious analysis than we have been accustomed to getting recently. The government must have a clear idea what price it will tolerate our dollar to trade at or what list of items realistically determined, will be subject to quota and licences.

Clear Idea

So far we know the new exchange rate and we are aware of the persistence of restrictions in the foreign exchange market (i.e. money for travel) and on this basis some of us might argue that what has been announced for freeing the market as far as trade goes cannot be achieved. Alternatively while no clear figure has been presented regarding those items requiring licenses the numbers rumoured on the street if they are correct, will prove to be inadequate given the severity of our foreign exchange problem.

As far as the deposit accounts denominated in foreign currencies go it appears that insufficient thought has been given to this by our policy makers. The approach at the outset is to operate a system of financial instruments with fixed maturities and fixed capital values. This will likely limit the advantages the country could derive from a fully functioning deposit account where free substitutability between foreign currencies and Jamaica deposits are possible. If this occurred there would be the following:

- (1) Less leakage from an official monetary system that allows most holders of foreign currency to sell not buy;
- (2) More players in the foreign exchange market which would improve arbitrage and forward market activities;
- (3) Less emphasis on the spot market thus reducing the volatility in exchange rate pricing;
- (4) Greater movement of speculative capital which would have a stabilizing effect on our dollar;
- (5) Improvement in knowledge for several official and private players involved in the foreign exchange market;
- (6) Less private hoarding of US dollars as well as lowered inclination to move various sums of money out to accounts in Miami;
- (7) Reduce the likelihood of a liquidity squeeze in the banking system.

But by far the greatest benefit would be the reduction in the scarcity and risk premium attached to the US dollar. As long as we persist with policies to undermine our currency then it will hover at levels well below its equilibrium price in terms of purchasing power parity.

Our current situation demands bold action and while the government has moved essentially in the right direction, greater precision in analysis is required and bolder steps are needed. But we must always remember that the price of adjustment is high and the social cost involved in correcting the imbalance in the external accounts is also going to be high. At this stage we have no other option. It is going to be change with chaos.

CSO: 3298/279

SEAGA TOURS BANANA PROJECT, PRAISES PRIVATE OWNERSHIP

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 2 Dec 83 p 20

[Text]

An Agro 21 high-technology banana project in Duckenfield, St. Thomas, funded to the extent of \$30 million, was toured by Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Edward Seaga, Wednesday.

Some 70 per cent of the project, said to be the first of its kind in the world with the use of tissue culture, is owned by the Government of Jamaica as the majority shareholder, with the Banana Company owning 20 per cent and United Brands 10 per cent.

Mr. Seaga addressed St. Thomas banana farmers who, along with the Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. Dr. Percy Broderick, Member of Parliament, and the Minister of Public Utilities and Transport, the Hon. Pearnel Charles, and officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Banana Company of Jamaica, accompanied him on tour of the 2,000-acre project.

He said the ownership structure of the project was in keeping with the Government's policy that it should not be the manager of commercial projects because the

Administration did not have the capacity to manage projects on this basis.

United Brands were the people introducing the new technology and were the managers of the project.

Mr. Seaga added that the project was expected to yield 2,000 tons of bananas next year, 20,000 tons in 1985 and 30,000 tons in 1986, on the conservative side, as the developers were seeing better results than they had expected.

Part of the high technology is the introduction of the tissue culture which involves the importation of seedlings from Miami on a weekly basis. However, a tissue culture plant will be set up in Jamaica next year.

Mr. Seaga said at that time the country would be able to produce tissue culture seedlings in any variety of plants such as banana, plantains and horticultural items whose production was found to be viable by this mechanism.

The Prime Minister announced that the Duckenfield project, sited in a former sugar-cane growing area, would be matched by a similar project of 2,000

acres in Clarendon which was now starting operation. The Government also had the majority equity interest in this project, coupled with the management capability of the minority equity-holders, United Brands.

An Israeli interest would be producing fruit based upon a similar technology, except that they would be using drip irrigation and central fertilization of the plants through this system to be managed by computer control, Mr. Seaga said, adding that the seedlings would also be produced by tissue culture through local operation or importation.

"What you're looking at therefore is some 4,000 acres which will be able to produce between 60,000 to 100,000 tons of fruit for exports. You will see that this will give us a very substantial base for meeting the 150,000 and 200,000-ton market in the United Kingdom which we have not been able to meet for years," he said.

Banana production in Jamaica dropped from 120,000 tons in 1972 down to the current level of some 30,000 tons, and the country had been on a declining road since then;

therefore the project was intended to bring back banana production up to a level where at least the majority of the fruit would be from solid high commercial and high technology export oriented plantations.

Mr. Seaga said that the export earnings from the two projects would be about U.S.\$20 million net per annum when they were in full production, one of the big reasons for the development of banana exports because the earnings were needed for the development of the country.

"I am visiting not at a time to tell you something is going to happen but visiting at a time when it's already happening. This is only one crop of the many crops which will be brought under high technology and commercial operation in order to give Agriculture the same basis and footing as Industry, Tourism and Bauxite, a sector which production is coming from, using the most scientific methods in order to get the best yields to sell our own crops abroad on a competitive basis."

He commended the United Brands managers and the workers who, he said, were giving the co-operation necessary to ensure that the project went off on a highly successful basis.

Mr. Seaga also paid tribute to Mr. Charles who, he noted, had a lot of explaining to do to the people as the overall project meant moving out of one crop (sugar cane) to another (banana), expressing the hope that the residents understood that what was being done was for their betterment in the future.

The Managing Director of Eastern Banana Estate Limited, Mr. Lloyd Berg,

giving details of the project, said that the Cavendish and Grand Nain varieties of bananas existed in very small quantities in Jamaica and in order to put the project on a very rapid basis, the Company had gone through the method of tissue culture which was being done in a laboratory in the United States.

He said 7,500 plants were being imported and planted a week, coming in small containers of 40 banana plants. "The success we've been having is very good with a survival rate of about 92 per cent of the plants from the U.S.," he said.

It is envisaged that the importation of plantlets would be increased to 15,000 weekly early next year to effect planting of 20 acres a week. The entire acreage, he said, would be planted hopefully by the end of next year.

The plants had to go through a hardening process for eight weeks in order to make them withstand the outside rigours of the environment, he said. The first set of plantings were done in March this year and in five and a half months they bore fruit.

"This is the first time this has ever been done in the world; this has never been done commercially before," Mr. Berg said.

On irrigation, he said the under-tree sprinkler-type irrigation was the method planned to be used for the project, the best for bananas at this time. Mr. Berg added that he was putting in a very extensive drainage system, one of large open canals, with 2 million feet of buried pipes at a depth of 7½ feet to pour out the water in the canals.

Bananas will be produced for export in a very small amount in the first instance but this will increase rapidly and significantly in future. Harvesting will involve the transportation of the fruit from the field to the packing station on a cable-way system built throughout the field in order to achieve the quality the market has been demanding these days.

"The variety that we are planting here does not have any difference in disease resistance as opposed to the varieties traditionally grown locally. They are susceptible to nematodes and other pests found in banana plantations, but by good cultural practice we hope to be able to keep these under control on an economic basis," he said.

Speaking also to the farmers on the tour, Mr. Broderick said banana production was being treated very seriously to show that there was meaningful effort in respect of the recovery programme for the industry.

Referring to what he described as the "cynicism and the snide comments" being cast at the industry, Mr. Broderick said that the industry had been so restructured that it would not become a loss leader among sub-sectors in the agricultural sector.

"We are not doing what they did in the past to be able to produce bananas at high economic tonnages per acre. We are looking at banana production along scientific methods, producing at tonnages to provide meaningful earnings to those farmers involved," he said.

Mr. Charles, in his ad-

dress, told the farmers that the project was the first major investment in the constituency, which would produce major benefits to both the farmers and their children. He said the project was a transformation to bring about a better life for the people of the area.

He however pleaded for discipline on the part of both management and the workers, urging them to frustrate those who would want to steal the crops and attempt to sit on the job without doing any work.

CSO: 3298/279

DETAILS OF SPENDING TO UPGRADE, REFURBISH POLICE STATIONS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 7 Dec 83 p 19

[Text]

The Ministry of National Security has spent \$2.25 million this financial year, on major upgrading and refurbishing of police stations throughout Jamaica.

According to JIS, the money spent on these police stations is a continuation of a programme started by the Ministry in the 1981/82 financial year, when just over \$2-million was spent.

To date just under \$4.3 million has been spent on improving the physical facilities of the stations.

The programme administered by the Planning and Development Division of the Ministry is in three sections. The first provides for critical emergency repairs such as replacing broken windows, mending leaking pipes and patching leaking roofs. The second calls for general repairs; and the third involves major upgrading and extensions.

During the 1981/82 financial year, 17 major up-

grading projects and 97 general improvements projects were carried out.

In this financial year, nine new major projects were started and 103 general improvement projects are being undertaken, a total of 122 being carried out.

Among the major works that are being carried out are improvements valued at \$337,000 on the Transport and Repairs Section; \$304,000 spent on the Spanish Town Police Station; \$256,000 spent on Harman Barracks Mobile Reserves; and \$200,000 on the Denham Town Police Station.

Other major projects being carried out this year include \$150,000 spent on the Bridgeport Police Station in St. Catherine; \$145,000 spent on the Harman Barracks headquarters of the Island Special Constabulary; \$125,000 spent on the Rockfort Police Station; and \$110,000 on the Barnett Street Police Station in Montego Bay.

BRIEFS

TERROR CAMPAIGN RUMOR--I hear that the beginnings of a terror campaign here is under way. As predicted Cuba's response to their military losses in Grenada will be the stirring up of criminal terror internally here and elsewhere. Consequently as it has come to me, housebreakings and hold-ups of certain people are being stepped up. But the police and citizens are prepared this time. The criminal political terrorists must not be allowed to win. [Anonymous column "Listening Post," signed "The Listener"] [Text] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 2 Dec 83 p 3]

JBC LEFTIST INFILTRATION--A reader writes: "At the JBC, signs of Leftist infiltration are beginning to appear. On the occasion of Mr. Seaga's massive meeting in the pouring rain in May Pen, the cameras focussed on the Prime Minister and Mr. Golding with two or three others on the platform. Viewers did not get a chance to see what crowd there was, as not once did the cameras leave the platform giving the impression that Mr. Seaga was speaking to himself. On the other hand, at Mr. Manley's much less attended meeting in Half-Way-Tree Square recently, the cameras roved over the crowd in beautiful colour (incidentally on the night of the showing of Mr. Seaga's meeting, the colour mysteriously disappeared). Also a freelancer upon interviewing some Nicaraguan refugees had her own independent views to pass with regard to Cuban refugees being hosted at the JDF, whilst Nicaraguan refugees are being sent home. It is now imperative that a JBC Board be named. Lastly through your medium I would like to remind Mr. Ronnie Thwaites that the call-in programme is for the views of the people, not his views. I think it's time that Mr. Thwaites gave someone else a chance to handle this programme, someone with less left-wing views." I agree, dear reader about the need for a Board to bring JBC within its law, but are you not being over sensitive about the use of the cameras? What do other readers think? [Anonymous column "Listening Post," signed "The Listener"] [Text] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 29 Nov 83 p 3]

UK HIGH COMMISSIONER--The British Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, with the concurrence of the Prime Minister Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, has appointed Mr. H.M.S. Reid, CMG, to be British High Commissioner to Jamaica in succession to Mr. B.G. Smallman, CMG, CVO, who will be retiring from the British Diplomatic Service. Mr. Smallman will leave Kingston in late February, 1984, and Mr. Martin Reid is due to arrive here in March 1984, a release from the British High Commission said. Mr. Martin Reid is 55 years

old and is married with three daughters aged 26, 24 and 15 years and one son, aged 23 years. He joined the Foreign Office in 1953 and has served in Europe, the Far East, South America, Eastern Europe and Africa. His most recent appointments were Resident Diplomatic Service Chairman of the Civil Service Selection Board (January-July 1983) and thereafter on secondment to the Royal College of Defence Studies in London. [Text] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 5 Dec 83 p 2]

AUSTRIAN EXPORT CREDIT--The Bank of Jamaica has announced the establishment of an export credit insurance cover for Austrian exports--mainly capital goods--to Jamaica up to an aggregate of 100 million Austrian Schillings (US\$5.5 million). Under the Austrian Export Promotion Act, an official agency, Oesterreichische Kontrollbank Aktien gesellschaft (OKB), is prepared to provide export insurance cover for the export of capital goods and eligible consumer goods of Austrian origin to Jamaica, a BOJ news release said. The maximum terms for capital goods are 10 half-yearly instalments for 85 per cent of the contract value for eligible consumer goods, 12 months for 100 per cent of the contract value. On the basis of such guarantees, refinancing by OKB according to the terms of the statutory Export Financing Promotion Scheme is possible. Manufacturers and importers wishing to avail themselves of this facility should contact the Jamaica Export Credit Insurance Corporation Limited (JECIC) Lines of Credit Division, located at the Seabed Building, corner of Duke and Port Royal Streets in Kingston, telephone 21945-9. [Text] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 3 Dec 83 p 1]

AGRICULTURAL GAINS--Farmers who produce cane, banana, coffee, and cocoa, four of the main export crops of Jamaica, will soon receive an increase in the price of their products as a positive effect of the devaluation of the Jamaican dollar, the Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Dr. Percival Broderick told the "Farmers' Weekly" yesterday. Discussions are now taking place with commodity organisations and the sugar industry, to see what level of increases can be granted to farmers, and in the case of the sugar industry, to determine what degree of increases sugar manufacturers can be granted, and the decisions will be announced shortly, Dr. Broderick said. The Minister pointed to the fact that banana farmers had begun to benefit as a result of the decision taken to pay them a first price incentive bonus totalling about \$440,000 for 15,000 farmers, and the fact that arrears for 1982 will be paid in the first part of 1984. Dr. Broderick also announced that for the first six months of this year the production level for domestic food crops has grown by fourteen point three percent. And he noted that agriculture is the only sector within the productive sector that has an overall growth of eight point three percent for this year. [Excerpts] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 3 Dec 83 p 10]

WATER SCHEMES--Four schemes, representing the first stage in the Rural Water Development Programme funded by the Inter-American Development Bank and being carried out by the Ministry of Public Utilities, are nearing completion. These schemes are at Pell River, in Hanover; Shettlewood, on the border of St. James and Hanover; Brandon and Welcome Hall, in north-east St. James; and Wilson Run, in Trelawny. Districts to be served by the Pell River

scheme, which is an expansion of the present system, are Cauldwell, Old Green Island and the environs of Pell River. Pipes and pumps have been installed and re-lift stations built. All that remains to be done, according to the Ministry, is to connect the systems to the main at Logwood. At Shettlewood, work has been completed and test-water is running. Water from this system will be supplied to the districts of Ramble, Chichester Castle, and Mt. Peto. Under the Bandon [sic] and Welcome Hall scheme, water will be taken from the Endeavour system, and will be supplied to the Endeavour environs and Camrose district. Five pumps have been installed and pipe-lines laid. What remains to be done is to effect a road-crossing at Brandon. At Wilson Run, which is another extension scheme, pumps have been installed as well as a slow-sand filter. All that remains to be done is to connect the supply to the pipe-lines. [Text] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 1 Dec 83 p 1]

CSO: 3298/280

BRIEFS

SIXTEEN GENERALS RETIRE--In a special ceremony yesterday 16 generals of various ranks retired. They are Division Generals Jesus Chico y Chico and Rodolfo Perez Gutierrez; Brigade Generals Armando Bosquez Rivera, Luis Astivia Dominguez, Guillermo Pulido Gordillo, Ricardo Lopez Jara, Carlos Basulto Celis, and Maximo Gomez Jimenez; and Brigadier Generals Alvaro Fox Alonso, Hector Ricardo Careaga Estrambasaguas, Francisco Raul Vargas Arreola, Benjamin Campos Paniagua, Antonio Lopez Rivera, Isidoro Velez Alarcon, Antonio Eguiza Uzcanga, and Edgar Sosa Pavon Yanez. [Summary] [PA182243 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 12 Nov 83 p 33-A]

ARMED FORCES PROMOTIONS ANNOUNCED--The Mexican Armed Forces have reported that on 20 November, the following promotions will take effect: Roberto Sanchez Coronel, Jorge Gustavo Grajales Velasquez, Luis Barquera Turcios and Miguel Mendoza Marquez, present head of the Mexican Air Force, will be promoted to divisional general; Angel Barron Viezcas, Vicente Herrera Brambila, Manuel Lomeli Gamboa, Victor Flores Lopez, Jose Noe Garcia y Segura, Samuel Angel Contreras Barrasa, Rafael Vargas Nava, Jorge Santillan Gamper, Tomas Mancera Segura and Gonzalo Ortiz Segura will be promoted to brigade general; Angel Gonzalez Moreno, Francisco Javier Velarde Quintero and Hector Vicente Ahuja Fuster will be promoted to wing general; Eulalio Fonseca Orozco, Jorge Sanchez Castaneda, Mario Perez Alarcon, Manuel Fernando Vadillo Trueba, Delfino Mario Palmerin Cordero, Mauro Delgado Soto, Alfredo Hernandez Pimentel, Alfonso Mancera Segura, Julio Cesar Santiago Diaz, Ruben Dario Castillo Ferrera, Salvador Gonzalez Medina, Jaime Quinonez Cruz, Salvador Gomez Resendiz, Juan Manuel Aguilar Ortiz, Ricardo Adriano Morales, Rolando Gutierrez Lopez, Mario Luna Villalpando, Juvenal Gonzalez Martinez, Hector Gay Solis, Jesus Herrera Mavorga, Nicolas Jaramillo Marmolejo, Jesus Manuel Esparza Villarreal, Pedro Lopez Garcia, Fernando Torres Valadez and Carlos Gomez del Campo Estrada will be promoted to brigadier general; and Manuel Wonche Montano, Oscar Bernal Rovira and Nicabardo Daniel Velasquez Cardona, will be promoted to group general. [Excerpt] [PA262129 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 19 Nov 83 pp 5a, 22a]

CSO: 3248/284

COOPERATION AGREEMENTS WITH SPAIN RENEWED

Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 25 Nov 83 p 4

[Text] Spain's solidarity aid to Nicaragua remains firm, according to Luis Yanes, president of the Ibero-American Institute of Cooperation, shortly before beginning his return trip to Madrid from Managua.

Yanes called his meetings yesterday with Dr Sergio Ramirez Mercado, Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto, Minister Carlos Tunnermann, Cdte Bayardo Arce C. and the Nicaraguan Committee for the Fifth Centennial of the Discovery of America very positive.

The formation of that committee in his presence and the express airplane provided for him by the government junta to travel from San Jose, Costa Rica, were gestures that greatly impressed the distinguished visitor during his 10-hour visit to Nicaragua. Although it was only in passing, it was the highest level Spanish visit since the Spanish Socialist Party with Felipe Gonzalez as its leader assumed power in the mother country.

Support for Contadora

To questions from the journalists at the airport, Yanes repeated the Spanish rejection of the use of force in international relations. He stated that any invasion against Nicaragua would be denounced by his people and government in all the forums of the world. He also emphasized that Spanish support for Contadora goes beyond mere intentions and focuses on such concrete aspects as the 21 points, the arms freeze and the peace treaties.

He announced that yesterday the renewal of all the agreements in one single, integral pact was agreed on with our government. He said that this pact includes major contributions in rural sanitation, agriculture and local administration. The necessary documents will be signed and the arrival to Nicaragua of Spanish collaborators and experts is planned for 1984.

ETA

When asked his opinion on the false reports that the regional servants of U.S. imperialism spread that Nicaragua serves as the base for the rebel activities of the ETA [expansion unknown], Yanes revealed that the revolutionary government

had repeated to him yesterday that it does not have ties with that group. He added: "I have no reason to doubt it."

He said that he was pleased by the exhaustive information he obtained from the Nicaraguan authorities on the internal political situation. He considered the fifth centennial of the discovery of America a great historic challenge to Hispanic-American unity in defense of the common destiny, language and cultural roots of our peoples.

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CSO: 3248/253

TRADE MINISTER ADDRESSES PROBLEM OF SHORTAGES

Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 24 Nov 83 p 4

[Text] The state will guarantee the people the supply of 25 basic products under normal situations and 15 in case of a widespread war against our country. The minister of domestic trade, Dionisio Marengo, explained this to the Council of State.

The list of articles considered essential consists of 8 foods, 10 household products and 7 personal hygiene products; they will be announced soon.

Another list of necessary but not indispensable products that will be supplied regularly within the limitations of the imperialist blockade and war has also been compiled.

If a merchant is caught selling essential products at elevated prices or if he speculates, he will be fined. If he does it again, he will be forced to sell all that merchandise to the state at official prices, Marengo added.

These measures are an attempt to exercise stricter control over private merchants and protect the great majority of the people more effectively.

Marengo said that, in case of war, MICOIN [Ministry of Domestic Trade] has the capacity to decentralize its personnel, warehouses and merchandise and transport them to the different regions of the country.

He also reported that a month's strategic reserves of basic foods for all the people are being established.

Aggression

Citing the causes for the scarcity of some products, the minister mentioned the siege imposed on Nicaragua by the United States which limits our ability to import the products that we do not produce. Then there is the fact that some producers are afraid to move their crops because of the danger of Somo-zist bands. In other cases, it is due to the inadequate storage capacity of the state.

There is no satisfactory explanation, however, for the low corn production. Almost all of this product must be imported from other countries.

As to plans to improve storage, Marengo mentioned the imminent completion of two large centers in Los Sabogales, Masaya, and Santo Tomas, Chontales, which will increase storage capacity by 20,000 metric tons.

When the MASA [Improvement and Expansion of Storage Systems] project being developed is completed, he added, food storage capacity will increase about 50 percent.

This project is being developed with credits from the Central American Bank of Economic Integration. Two batteries of silos are being constructed in El Sauce and Nandaime with loans from France and Spain, respectively.

Another project consists in the creation of large trade centers in the main peasant areas of the country.

These centers will include MICOIN warehouses, bank offices and supermarkets where the peasant producers can buy all the goods and supplies they need. This motivates the producers to market their crops.

In response to a question from Perfecto Arroliga, a delegate of the CDS [Sandinist Defense Committee], on the shortage of some products in Managua, Marengo revealed that the shortage in Region III made it possible to establish reserves of basic products in the more isolated regions of the country.

He explained that the possibility of a U.S. invasion spreading war throughout national territory has led to the creation of these reserves in the cities also.

Freedom of Trade

"The Oriental Market cannot be closed by decree," Marengo said in response to Manuel Avendano, a delegate of the PSC [Social Christian Party], who complained about the amount of speculation with articles of prime necessity at that market.

He answered: "If the government had a round-up and seized articles from the merchants, surely some organizations against the revolution would use the situation for their benefit and accuse us of not respecting the freedom of trade." He had already explained the impossibility of stopping the speculators as long as the production capacity of the country does not increase.

He also explained that in spite of the U.S. blockade and pressures that have practically paralyzed Nicaraguan trade with Costa Rica, Guatemala and Honduras, businessmen from these countries continue to express their desire to continue that trade.

Since Nicaragua is an importing country in the region, the pressure of the economic crises in the other Central American countries will force them to be more flexible.

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CS0: 3248/254

CSN REQUESTS PRICE CONTROLS, POSTPONES WAGE DEMANDS

Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 28 Nov 83 p 10

[Text] The suggestions presented by the CSN [National Trade Union Coordinating Board] to the Emergency Committee of the Council of State yesterday included: a fiscal policy with more emphasis on direct tax surcharges, an end to incentives and control over excessive profits; effective price control for products of popular consumption; and an effective fight against inflation and the rising cost of living.

During the meeting, the second of the day for the committee, the CSN delegation rejected the unilateral trends toward wage increases above the already imposed ceilings and exhorted the rightist political parties to make an effort to put election activities in last place in order to put defense of the fatherland first.

Concerning the escalation of aggression against our people by Yankee imperialism, the CSN delegates stressed the decisive role that the workers must play in revolutionary tasks, responding to the circumstances.

They emphasized: "These tasks include the defense of the interests of the workers in the midst of the economic crisis and the aggression as well as support for the measures that help alleviate the situation of the people.

"Concerning wage policies, we have postponed any wage discussion during the crisis. However, we remain alert against shots--that is, internal management aggression--that hurt the dignity and well-being of the workers."

Pointing out the concrete actions adopted by the trade unions to confront the aggression, the CSN delegates indicated the dynamic action of the innovative workers, compliance with the conservation provisions dictated by our government, the action leading to the expansion of civil defense to the masses and efficient production even in a war situation.

As a counterpart to this positive action, they indicated that the most dangerous obstacles have been the action of the right against the Patriotic Military Service and obvious or latent maneuvers by businessmen, even officials of state entities, to hurt the war economy of the workers.

As direct measures to sustain the people's well-being even in wartime, the union delegation proposed the creation of more effective channels for the distribution of basic foods. They said: "These measures have a stimulating effect on the combativeness of the workers."

Avoid Pirating

They added: "We ourselves are encouraging the installation of commissariats and censuses to ration the distribution of food. We also propose energetic supervisory measures to respect existing wages and labor stability and prevent 'pirating' of skilled labor."

The CSN delegates were energetic in demanding drastic measures against those who violate the wage situation and are creating problems through the payment of their workers. "We want the incentives to be adapted toward the defense framework and all sectors to make the effort so that the weight of the responsibility does not fall exclusively on the shoulders of the workers."

"Our problems are clear, translated into low wages and difficult living conditions. However, we workers rise to the occasion. We continue working and confronting the shots by the opposition and imperialism and some gentlemen in private enterprise."

Pointing out the realities that some workers confront, the delegates gave as examples the low wages paid in enterprises like "Aceitera Corona" where wages waver between 36 and 48 cordobas per day. Another negative example was Ingeniero Benjamin Zeledon where the workers pay 58 cordobas to have rights to the INSS [National Institute of Social Security] but only 28 cordobas are recorded on the rate sheet.

On the direct problems of aggression, the CSN said that it had a more negative effect on the rural workers since they were directly hurt by it and assumed more responsibility for the defense of their own production.

Concerning the Patriotic Military Service, they stated that it still had very little effect on national production, mainly due to the fact that very few youths have been mobilized. It has had almost no effect on the urban labor centers.

The CSN delegates concluded: "Some problems of supply, wages and distribution at times cause 'morale declines' among the workers. However, this is fought against and there is faith in the victory of the working class that defends its future and that of all Nicaraguans."

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CSO: 3248/253

PETRONIC ISSUES NEW REGULATIONS FOR GASOLINE PURCHASES

Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 24 Nov 83 p 9

[Text] As of today, 24 November, all those interested in buying gasoline on "open sale" can do so by purchasing 5 and 1 gallon coupons at the Revenue Administration Offices of Regions II, III and IV. The gasoline will be sold for 120 cordobas per gallon, according to a communique issued by PETRONIC [Nicaraguan Petroleum Enterprise] and the General Revenue Directorate.

The communique said: PETRONIC and the General Revenue Directorate inform the general public of the provisions applicable to the distribution of gasoline on "open sale" beginning in November 1983 as authorized by our JGRN [Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction].

1. The distribution of gasoline on open sale will be through 5 and 1 gallon coupons similar to those in circulation but differentiated by the General Revenue Directorate stamp.
2. These coupons will be acquired only at the windows of the Revenue Administration Offices located in Regions II, III and IV beginning 24 November. To acquire these coupons, the interested party must pay 71 cordobas for each gallon at the window of the Revenue Administration Office. These coupons can be used at any (gasoline) service station except on the Atlantic Coast. When using these coupons, the interested party must pay the gasoline station 49 cordobas per gallon. The interested party will thus have paid the sum of 120 cordobas, the cost of each gallon of gasoline on open sale.
3. Any natural or legal person can acquire coupons for gasoline on open sale. Only the Revenue Administration Offices of each region mentioned are authorized to sell these coupons and receive the surcharge of 71 cordobas per gallon of gasoline on open sale.
4. The coupons will only be valid for the month they are issued in and will not be refundable.

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CSO: 3248/253

EVANGELICAL GROUP EXPRESSES SOLIDARITY WITH REVOLUTION

Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 26 Nov 83 p 9

[Text] "At a time when the forces of death confront the forces of life, CEPAD [Evangelical Committee for Development Aid] upholds the legitimate right of the Nicaraguan people to defend their conquests and their revolution, the right to shape their own destiny, make decisions and live free and sovereign."

The above is part of the detailed report CEPAD gave yesterday afternoon in the round of talks that the Emergency Committee of the Council of State has been holding for some days with the political, trade union and religious organizations of our country.

The Emergency Committee had invited the "Ramiro Sacasa Coordinating Board" and CONFER [Nicaraguan Conference of Religious] for yesterday morning. However, both groups, apparently oblivious of the reality of the country facing the threats of invasion by Yankee imperialism, were conspicuous by their absence like other rightist organizations such as the CTN [Central Organization of Nicaraguan Workers], CUS [Confederation for Trade Union Unity] and COSEP [Higher Council of Private Enterprise].

CEPAD told the committee the philosophical principles that this Christian service group has been based on since it was created 11 years ago. It recognized the initiative of the Government of National Reconstruction in achieving the advancement of the Nicaraguan people, "the great accomplishments that have been achieved in such a short time and under such unfavorable circumstances. These have contributed notably to a very positive change in the life, health, education, culture, nutrition, housing, transportation and recreation of the Nicaraguans."

Values of the Revolution

The CEPAD leaders stated: "As Christians and revolutionaries, we also uphold the values that the revolution proclaims such as the dignity of man, society and the family, the search for collective well-being, the just distribution of wealth and national resources, the advancement of the child and woman, development of patriotic and cultural values, the self-determination of the peoples, the equality of all men, honesty in public administration and respect for human rights. These principles are stated and upheld in the Bible, the word of God and rule of conduct for all Christians."

Stipulating the problems that CEPAD is facing because of the emergency situation of the country, the delegates from that organization indicated that the threats of invasion and their sequels have hindered projects and the resources in time, personnel and financing of the committee.

The members of CEPAD indicated: "Our position has been one of dialogue and communication with the Government of National Reconstruction. This has permitted us to critically confront problems and difficult situations such as the takeover of evangelical churches by the mass organizations, a certain lack of understanding by some clergymen and churches about the Patriotic Military Service Law, ignorance of the nature of the evangelists by leaders and mass organizations, etc."

Promotion of Solidarity

Concerning the concrete tasks carried out by CEPAD in the emergency situation, they indicated the promotion of solidarity with Nicaragua and mobilization of public opinion in the United States, especially among the evangelical churches and clergymen so that they have correct knowledge about Nicaraguan reality and try to change the aggressive attitude of the U.S. Government.

The members of CEPAD added: "We have made many trips to the United States and Europe, given hundreds of talks and attended hundreds of meetings. We have also taken care of hundreds of U.S. visitors who have come to Nicaragua at our invitation, showing them the reality here and making them see how distorted the information is that they receive in the United States.

"Here in Nicaragua, we have tried to help our people understand the changes and current situation in Nicaragua, to read and interpret the Bible in the light of the justice and wisdom of God, to understand the laws dictated by our government and, especially, to understand the responsibility we have as Christians in our Nicaraguan society."

Battalion of Evangelists

Corroborating the above, the CEPAD delegation announced that a battalion of evangelists will soon leave to cut coffee in El Crucero. Another contingent of more than 600 Christians is already working in Ocotal cutting coffee.

The CEPAD delegation also indicated that there will be a meeting with more than 200 clergymen today in the Rubenia church. CEPAD's work plan for the emergency situation will be announced then.

At the meeting yesterday, CEPAD was represented by Mrs Telma Medina from the Central American Church, Rev Faustino Zepeda, Tomas Reyes, professor Gilberto Aguirre, executive director of CEPAD, and clergyman Sixto Ulloa.

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CSO: 3248/254

BRIEFS

CIVIL DEFENSE TRAINING FOR TEACHERS--"At this time of imminent threats by U.S. imperialism, it is a serious mistake to be thinking about a vacation," stated professor Nathan Sevilla, national secretary of ANDEN [National Association of Nicaraguan Teachers]. He was commenting on the active participation of teachers in civil defense. He added: "It would be a crime to cross our arms facing possible aggression. Therefore, ANDEN has directed its bases to participate fully in the training courses of the different Civil Defense Brigades." Between 2 and 23 December, more than 2,000 teachers will begin training in civil defense tasks in order to then serve as propagators by teaching similar courses to more than 130,000 secondary students. This massive training will be coordinated by MED [Ministry of Education], CNES [National Council of Higher Education], ANDEN and the Sandinist Youth. The secondary students who do not participate in the Production Battalions will be required to take these courses. The leader added: "At the present time, the decisive participation of teachers and students in civil defense tasks becomes imperative. Therefore, ANDEN does not guarantee its bases vacations." [Excerpt] [Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 25 Nov 83 p 2] 7717

CSO: 3248/254

BRIEFS

SENATE APPROVES NAVY PROMOTIONS--The Senate last night approved the promotions of Rear Admirals Andres Ferrari Rodriguez, Jorge Telaya Hidalgo, and Bernardo Roca Alzamora to vice admirals. The following captains have been promoted to rear admirals: Carlos Valdes de la Torre, Alejandro Martinez Fresancho, Gustavo Barragan Schenone, Guillermo Zariquey Alegre, Manual Ramos Montoya, Edmundo Guzman (?Lanf Ranco), Javier Rocha Mujica, Jorge Vila Saldivar, Victor Posso Carrillo, and Samual Sanchez Checa. [Summary] [Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 7 Dec 83 p 2 PY]

CSO: 3348/166

PLP LEADER ODLUM SEES PARALLELS FOR ST LUCIA IN GRENADA

Castries CRUSADER in English 19, 26 Nov 83

[Speech by PLP leader George Odlum at "rally in solidarity with the people of Grenada"; date and place not indicated]

[19 Nov 83 pp 2, 6]

[Excerpts] Bishop was my friend, my good friend. I will never forget when we first met here in St. Lucia at a Rat Island Meeting, I said to him "Maurice your task in Grenada is harder than mine in St. Lucia. Something will have to be done about Gairy." At this time I thought that Maurice was too soft to do it and I started talking to him in this way. I didn't realise that the man had a peculiar toughness deep inside of him. When they killed his father I said "Maurice if they killed my father in that way I would take Gairy with my own hands." Maurice said "No, brother, no! The struggle is bigger than anything like that." I looked at him and I realised that he had matured. He was telling me something that I knew deep down within myself about the struggle but I had let the emotion cloud my vision for the moment but the Brother brought me back on. He told me that the struggle was bigger than all that, and so when they rescued Maurice Bishop, Alister Hughes was trying to get a word out of him and all he could say was "The masses. The masses. Leave it to the masses."

Creative Masses

On that day when I heard Maurice was arrested, the PLP made a statement and in that statement we said that the Revolution belonged not to Bishop, not to Coard, not to anybody in the New Jewel Movement. The Revolution in Grenada belonged to the masses of the People of Grenada. And I went on to make the statement that they should allow the masses to express themselves without let or hindrance. Quittay gens La Grenada dis say yo vlais, si yo vlais Bishop yo kai metlez Bishop la. Si yo vlais Coard yo kai mettez Coard la. Si yo pas vlais plesse yo ki tiway yo toute.

That was my statement made in the morning at ten o'clock. In the afternoon they freed Bishop. The People--that creative lot--the people who can solve problems that armies can't solve, leaders can't solve, the people can solve it. Especially if you help them. If you give them the facts. If you teach them, if you open their eyes they can solve it themselves.

Guns Against the People

I want to pause to link that with something else in St. Lucia. I want you to remember in 1979, how Compton used the Police against you. How they tear gassed you everywhere you turned. How they put bullets in you. The Police were like animals hostile to you and everywhere you saw a policeman you were at him. You were cursing him. He was doing you down. He tried to shoot you and teargas you for Compton. After that....despite all that, you rose, you came out in 1979, after Independence and everything and you took Compton out. Then we had to deal with the same policemen. We were hardly in for two weeks when they started their riot on the Boulevard. The Police were cranking up their guns and coming out to shoot my people here. I went on Bridge Street and I said every Policeman must get back into barracks. Not one drop of St. Lucian blood will be shed here this time.

When they let Maurice go (and I am showing you the parallel) the only thing which was reported as coming from Maurice was: "Do not turn the guns against our People. The guns are for our enemies." That is the statement Bishop was making. That is the same statement I was making on the Boulevard. The People--we have to defend them not shoot them down. We have to educate them not teargas them. Ever since I marched with you since 1973, have you ever heard that I had shot anybody? Have you seen me run-down my people? Have you seen me treating my people as Compton treats them? But I am the Murderer! Odlum wants to do the same thing as Grenada in St. Lucia! Compton, in his whole body, in his twisted face has not got the amount of democracy I have in my small finger!

Compton is a danger to St. Lucia and that is why I have dedicated my life to shield and protect the people of St. Lucia from him. What happened in the past few weeks is the worst possible manifestation of the danger and threat that Compton is to the people of St. Lucia. What happened there in the past few weeks shows you that deep inside of the man there is this SALALWAR quality. A vindictive quality. A quality for vengeance. A quality for revenge. Compton has no love for the Grenadian people, that's not why he went there, he has been cursing them for many years. That's not why he went there!

Compton did not like Bishop. He hated his guts. Everything Bishop stood for, Compton stood for the opposite of it. Bishop was no opportunist, he stood on principles. Bishop was not corrupt. Bishop was not selfseeking. Bishop was no stooge of imperialism. Bishop did not exploit his people and keep them in darkness in order to bluff them.

Brothers, I would like you to mark the position of George Louison, Bishop's faithful colleague. Louison, was arrested, he said he was about to be shot too, the Army had agreed that if the invasion got serious, he should be shot. But Louison, God help him, came out and said "I was about to be shot but I do not agree with the invasion of Grenada by the Americans." This is an extremely principled statement. Here was a man who was about to lose his life and the Americans invaded and he survived the whole ordeal but he

insisted "I do not agree with the Americans coming." You must understand how serious and principled this kind of statement is! It was made against the possibility of Louison losing his own life.

We are a small nation. We have any amount of arms here but no amount of arms can save us from a country that wants to come in and bomb. A country that brings in warships to bomb your harbour. And make no mistake most of what you heard on the radio were lies and the Voice of St. Lucia did a most dangerous, damaging and dirty job in St. Lucia, and the radio did a worse job. If you came by The Crusader during the invasion we could have told you a whole week before it hit the news that a hospital in Grenada was bombed and almost fifty people were killed. When it finally came out in the news the Americans tried to deny it. They capitulated and admitted that only eighteen people lost their lives. Later they were forced to admit that the figure was higher. But the media never told you that a children's school, a kindergarten school was bombed and children lost their lives. The Voice and Radio St. Lucia never told you that!

Carpet-Bombing

If the Americans went in to save their American citizens they could have done a bit of military surgery by going where their citizens were and freeing them. But the American citizens were never in danger at any stage. They even gave them permission to leave on the Monday prior to the invasion. No American civilian was ever hurt at any stage of the operations. Was it then necessary to kill so many hundred Grenadians by bombing them by land and sea? Do you know what carpet-bombing is? The Americans flew low over the houses and areas and bombed them out. The warships were bombing from outside. The rocket launchers were hitting the hillsides all the time, not caring what little shacks were there, what people houses were there, they were just bombing the hills claiming that there were Cubans and Grenadians holding out up there. Just imagine them coming to St. Lucia and bombing into the Morne Du Don hillside irrespective of whether people have little huts under the bush.

War of Lies

That was the kind of butchery that went on there. They didn't want the reporters because they didn't want the real horror to come out. That's why up to now they refuse to tell you how many Grenadians were killed. The Americans had two boats and they used them as morgues or mortuaries to pile dead bodies into them. Radio St. Lucia keep giving you figures of how many people died at the time of the Coup but they refuse to tell you how many people died as a result of the invasion and the American bombing. They wouldn't even tell you how many American soldiers are dead. It is said that there are about eighty to one hundred dead Americans but they tell you that it is eighteen and twenty. BBC came out and said it was forty but the Americans tried to deny the figure. It is a war of lies! A squalid little war and that was all planned before. Why you think Compton couldn't go to address the United Nations? After months of telling people that he was going to the United Nations to tell them about Libya's

interference in the business of St. Lucia. When they knew what they were going to do and the plan to invade Grenada was made before Bishop died and the Americans knew that they were about to invade and about the same time that Compton was due at the United Nations, America instructed Compton not to go to the United Nations. Do you know why? If Compton went to the U.N. to talk about Libya interfering in the internal affairs of St. Lucia, then what would happen when America actually intervenes and interferes by invading Grenada? The American Ambassador in Paris actually admitted that there was a plan to invade Grenada in early October.

Brothers and Sisters, watch and listen, do not jump to hasty conclusions. We on this platform we deal openly with you. They are saying that "that is what Odlum wanted to do here." I have a bond with you. Don't worry with those Flambeau dogs of war barking there. We will handle them in time. I have a bond with you. I come out and tell you everything. When Maurice realised that there was something serious brewing in the Party between Coard and himself he didn't want to come out and bring it to the people for fear that he would tarnish the image of the Revolution since America and the same CARICOM Yardfowls were putting so much pressure on him to destabilise the Revolution. But with you I come out and tell you everything. I run my mouth like a duck's backside to keep you informed. Just to keep you informed. When they are about to come for me you will know the score.

Now they contacted Louisy, Cenac and Mikey as Past Prime Ministers to ask for their comments on the invasion of Grenada. Louisy and Mikey Pilgrim said that they had nothing to say but Cenac who should be the very last man to open his mouth to talk about the subversion of any Government, it is Cenac who gave them what they wanted. Cenac said that we wanted to do the same thing here and we would have done it if we had an army. We did not need an army for Cenac, it is a Ten Thousand Dollar Bom that subverted him. There was no foreign intervention in that. He breached a local piece! So Cenac must not come with this nonsense now and tell the world that his Government was exposed to the same thing. If he didn't "make a bom" his Government would not have fallen. If he wants to say that nonsense on the Voice of America we can go on the Voice of America and tell them about his Bom too!

State Power

Now they are trying to bluff you by telling you that it was a similar Grenada-type coup we had planned for Louisy. Let me tell you something, brothers and sisters. My Grenadian brothers did not agree with me when I left the Government and gave up my ministerial posts. I am showing you tonight the independence of your Party and the men in your Party. The Grenadian Government said to me: "You must never let go State Power when you have it. You must always hold on to State Power when you have it."

[26 Nov 83 pp 2, 4, 8]

[Excerpts] Today Compton comes out and says that he has to thank Louisy for saving Saint Lucia. If there is anyone who saved St. Lucia, it's the Progressive Labour Party that saved St. Lucia.

Now in this question of security and state power it is not a question of army guns versus police guns. The Police guns are as dangerous as any Army guns and what happened in Grenada can happen easily in St. Lucia and that is why I am afraid for you. I'll tell you why. Cyril who is in charge of the firepower in St. Lucia is much more nervous and volatile than Hudson Austin in Grenada. Right now the disposition of power and authority in the Police Force is very uncertain. The Commissioner Phillips is going one way, The SSU Chief Cyril is going another way and the Special Branch Head Augustin is going yet another way. So the Police power-structure is divided into three and the nervous Cyril is the man who has his finger on the trigger. So go to your bed tonight and think about that before you go to sleep.

GUNS ON THE PEOPLE

Now there is nothing wrong with Coard challenging Bishop for the leadership because in every Government there are contests and challenges of this kind. This is the stuff of human nature and the very stuff of political life, but things only went wrong in Grenada when they turned the guns on the people. Think about that for a second. **THINGS ONLY WENT WRONG IN GRENADA WHEN THEY TURNED THE GUNS ON THE PEOPLE.** And the persons who turned the guns on the masses are the persons who control the guns whether they wear Army Uniforms or Police Uniforms. That is why I am worried for you. Because Compton himself is trying to buy control of the Police by salaries, promotions and such things. He has not got full control of the Police and that is one of the points that ex-Prime Minister Louisy and myself could never agree on. I told Louisy that even from Day-One you have to get the Police tightly wrapped around the Government. You have to speak with them openly to find out what they want, articulate their needs and put people whom you don't trust in subordinate positions or rather in non-sensitive positions and put trusted people in the key positions of confidence. If you don't do that you would never be able to control the Force. Louisy had office but he had no control of the State Power because he couldn't tell the Police what to do.

CIA CONTROL

Ex-Prime Minister Cenac only asked for foreign help because he had no control of the Police. Not even Brother Mikey Pilgrim, the Interim Prime Minister had any control of the Police because if he directed them to take a certain course of action they would not follow his instructions. At that time they were in the control of the

American Central Intelligence Agency with a little sub-direction from the British. This means that we have a serious position here in St. Lucia. It is a dangerous position and the weapons which our Police have now are serious, highly-sophisticated weapons. Don't let Compton fool you. He has been saying recently that the guns our Police have are outdated 303's which can be used only for ceremonial purposes but not for killing people. He said so last week at their disastrous flop of a Rally and he repeated it to the world on a TV Link-up programme. Well that is one of the lies that Compton usually indulges in. The St. Lucia Police now have the most modern type of weapons of all kinds, automatic weapons, sub-machine guns rocket launchers and others. One of these days we will list them all for you. St. Lucia is ready for a serious war but not a war against America as Bishop's Grenada was preparing for, it is a WAR OF THE GOVERNMENT VERSUS THE PEOPLE.

ARMS FOR INVASION

That is the difference between Grenada and St. Lucia. The media told you that Grenada had a big Arms Agreement with Cuba, The Soviet Union, North Korea and Czechoslovakia, and the value of that Arms Agreement was \$38 million over five years. If you divide \$38 million by five, this means that the value of the Arms Agreement was in the vicinity of \$7 million a year but St. Lucia has spent more than that in the course of one year on purchasing military hardware and training. Bishop had told the world clearly that he was expecting an invasion from America. He was mobilizing his people for that invasion, he trained them, he alerted them to all the manoeuvres which the Americans set up in the Caribbean. He warned them about Ocean Venture I, Ocean Venture II. Then he warned them about the manoeuvres code-named Amber and The Amberines which was held on Vieques, an island off Puerto Rico. That was a practice-run for the invasion of Grenada and to show you how serious Bishop was he had armed his country to withstand this invasion. While the Leaders of the Caribbean were mocking him saying that he was crying wolf because America would never invade a small island like Grenada, he was systematically arming his people to fight the imperialist threat.

An American military expert on seeing the Weapons build-up in Grenada said that there were sufficient arms to defend Grenada for thirty days. Thirty days of warfare is nothing when you are fighting a Super-Power like America. America went into Grenada with the intention of wiping them out like flies in two hours. They had planned the whole operation to last two hours but the heroic people

of Grenada stood up and fought the invaders. That is why we have to stand tonight in solidarity with the heroic people of Grenada. They took their pop-guns and whatever other weapons they had and fought the invaders. They brought the helicopters down ably assisted by the brave Cubans. The media tried to give the impression that all the fighting was done by professional Cuban soldiers alone but the Grenadians fought stoutly too. Even when the Cubans had laid down their arms after the wanton slaughter of their construction workers, the Grenadians were still fighting on in the hills. Although the country was not united since most people were reluctant to fight for Austin, Coard and the Military Council after the murder of Bishop, but when the invasion took place some of the Militia who were Bishop's supporters came out nevertheless to defend their country against the invaders. Brothers, the fighting is not yet finished. Right now there are about three hundred Grenadians in the hills and I hear our Policemen have gone there to keep peace, well as soon as a few of them return home in boxes, you will hear a different story.

CRUSHING THE REVOLUTIONARY SPIRIT

I want you to remember that Policeman Jean Jacques who got shot in the course of duty and he is crippled sitting in a wheel-chair at home up to now. The authorities did not even want to help him get treatment abroad much less to support him and his family. Against this background I want to ask on what conditions are our Policemen going to Grenada? Who is going to compensate their families if they get killed? Who will take care of their children? Some of the Policemen said that they bluntly refused to go even if they would be fired for refusing. Some have gone and some Jamaicans were killed but the Radio wouldn't tell you about that! When some of our Policemen who were sneaked out of here like thieves in the night without telling our people in advance that they were being despatched to Grenada, when some of them return in coffins, the same thing which happened in America when the American soldiers in Vietnam started coming back in coffins, that will happen here. No one is asking the people of St. Lucia anything in all this.

COST OF INVASION

I always warn you in advance. I warned you when the medical Schools were coming to St. Lucia. I told you that the Americans were sending them here in order to have a foothold in our country and when the People decided to move

against the puppet Compton Government, they would send troops in on the pretext that they were protecting American residents and the Hess Investment. I give you these warnings in advance whether some people like it or not... Some of our people are so faint-hearted when they listen to the Radio and read that pernicious paper, the Voice they get a completely distorted picture and they say: "way way. Thank God for America. Thank America for invading Grenada". Let me tell you one fact which I want you to reflect on tonight. When America decided that it was going to help the Caribbean with that miracle, magic package known as the CBI - the Caribbean Basin Initiative, you know how much they decided to spend for the entire Caribbean? \$350 million for the whole Caribbean. Tonight I will tell you a figure that the Voice of St. Lucia have not told you and will not tell you. A figure that Radio St. Lucia have not revealed to you and will not reveal to you. I will tell you what that invasion of Grenada cost the American Government. THE INVASION OF GRENADA COST THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT TWELVE BILLION DOLLARS.

NO SOUL IN LEVIATHAN

Twelve billion dollars can make the whole of the Caribbean free, healthy, educated and moving forward with the confidence to create a new generation of liberated Caribbean people. Twelve Billion Dollars - that is, twelve million million dollars. That fantastic amount of money can easily be spent on an invasion of a little island at the pull of a trigger but when it comes to giving development aid to the Caribbean we are hard-put to raise one million dollars from America. Of the \$350 million for the entire Caribbean under the CBI the OECS States got between \$7 million and \$10 million together, but they would spend twelve billion to invade Grenada. Could you understand that? Could you understand the psyche and the thinking of a Government like Reagan's that wouldn't help to solve the problems of the Caribbean and bring hope and prosperity to our people but would be willing to spend incredible sums of money in invading a little speck of dust like Grenada. The powerful U.S. machine is massive. The Leviathan is all-powerful but is there no God in the machine? Is there no soul in Leviathan?

ECONOMIC FRUSTRATION

Afghanistan cannot be wrong and Grenada right. If you condemn the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, you must also condemn the American invasion of Grenada. Brothers and Sisters if we open the sluice-gates like that in Grenada,

then the gates will also be open on us in St. Lucia because right now the economic position in St. Lucia is worse than it has ever been at any time under any Government even before George Charles. It is worse than ever and when the people forget the tumult and the shouting of Grenada and start to bite on the bit of their economic frustration in St. Lucia Compton will pick up the phone and say "Ronnie I'm in trouble, come." Well, Bishop had the guns and he had the people. The only thing that could save us is if the People are together. If they are united we could start with the cutlasses, the guns will come. But you must never let the combination of the Bourgeois and an insensitive and ruthless Government take you along the road of exploitation and charity. We have a picture of the squalid little Rally of two hundred people which the UWP attempted last Saturday to celebrate the slaughter of Grenadians. The Bourgeois exploiters were all there in their white straw-hats - those who suck the life-blood of our country and rejoice when Grenadians are shot down. How can you celebrate when mental hospitals are bombed and mental patients die? How can you celebrate the bombing of a Children's Home, the Kennedy Home next to the Richmond Hill Institution when young children lose their tender lives? Is our Government and the United Workers Party so heartless, so insensitive and so callous to dance on the graves of our Grenadian borhters, all in the name of Democracy?

Brothers and sisters, we regret the death of our illustrious Caribbean Leader Maurice Bishop and we mourn the death of his colleagues and the slaughter of the Grenadian people but we also salute the heroic Grenadian people who resisted the American invasion in order to illustrate the point that superpowers are not free to impose democracy or any other ideology at the point of a gun on small defenceless states. Goodnight.

CSO: 3298/251

CRUSADER REPORT CASTIGATES U.S. ACTIONS IN GRENADA

Castries CRUSADER in English 19 Nov 83 pp 1, 6

[Text] The following story is based on eye-witness reports on what has been happening in Grenada since the US-led invasion on October 25. These reports indicate that quite clearly, the situation is not as good as it has appeared on the radio and newspaper reports we have been receiving. From all indications, the Yankees are on a rampage in Grenada!

The Yankees are on a rampage in Grenada. This is the indication coming from direct reports from people who were there during and after the October 25 invasion by Ronald Reagan's troops.

Even the Yankee Commander in charge in Grenada has admitted this week that the people of Grenada are beginning to turn against the invasion because of the way the Americans are carrying on in their country.

In the beginning, the Grenadians, like many of us in the Caribbean, felt that the Yankees had come to "save" them and put peace. However, what they are seeing now is showing them in a very clear manner that that is not so.

The Yankee soldiers are now searching every home in Grenada house by house, and are seizing documents and other belongings black-is-white. They have even been accused by the rich people living in the posh Lance Au Epines area of stealing valuable jewellery and other personal effects from the homes that they forced the people to desert during the bombing.

The Yankees said they were going into Grenada to restore "law and order", but more than that, they have actually taken over the country. They have taken over the various Ministries, and sent all Civil Servants who were strong supporters of the Revolution home "until further notice". They are going through all the documents, with CIA officers combing all files and cabinets. They are giving orders here and there, and keeping everyone under heavy manners. Grenadians now need a Yankee pass to go from one area to the next in their own country, just like blacks in South Africa. The whole country is just like a massive military camp.

Prostitution has started again in Grenada, and is now on the rampage. An old school-bus frame dumped outside Queen's Park formerly used as a Rastafarian Restaurant has been turned into a whorehouse where the Yankee soldiers pick their fares, day and night. Similarly, the use of hard drugs has been reintroduced by the Yankee troops. They have reportedly bought out all the available stocks of marijuana, while some have been seen sharing cocaine and even heroin amongst locals. Drugs and prostitution had been effectively wiped out under the Revolutionary period.

As many criminals have once again reared their heads, there are also reports of several cases of rape since the invasion. One report is of the brutal rape of a 9-year-old schoolgirl. Apart from the serious looting which took place during the fighting, theft continues as many families are still displaced from their homes.

But by far the most disgusting reports reaching the CRUSADER of the situation in Grenada has to do with the way the leadership of the NJM, the RMC, and the PRA, are being treated by the US troops. Close to two hundred activists of the NJM and strong supporters of the Revolution have been detained and locked up at detention centres in the Point Salines airport area. They are being "interrogated" by the Americans, one report states.

The way people are being held is disgusting. According to our reports, the Americans are paying five US dollars per head for each NJM, RMC or Revolutionary activist identified by any Grenadian. They have developed a whole army of informers, and some are identifying wrong people just to get the US dollars.

The Americans have reportedly prepared a long list of "wanted" Revolutionary activists, listed in order of priority ranging between "A, B, C and D". So far, almost the entire leadership of the party led by Maurice Bishop have been held, and there is no way of knowing who is dead or alive. The detentions are so ad hoc that even the son of the man leading the Interim Government, Mr. Nicholas Brathwaite, was arrested, handcuffed and made to lie on the hot airport tarmac when he arrived in Grenada last week. It took a call from the Governor General to secure his release!

Yet another disgusting report is that thousands of people have lost their jobs since the Yankees took over Grenada. All the special programmes started by the Revolution have been stopped, and some Ministries have been disbanded, such as Information, National Mobilisation, the Milk Programme, and so on. Work also stopped at the Point Salines airport since the takeover, where several hundred Grenadians worked with the Cubans. From all indications, the Americans are now using Point Salines as a military base.

It is now clear to many Grenadians that the Americans came in and stopped the Revolution and put the Cubans out, so that they themselves could take over the entire country. Already, the Americans have set up a huge mission (embassy) which is manned by several officials. There are an estimated 50 "advisors" and an unknown number of US diplomatic and intelligence officers. Some are walking into the Ministries in operation and describing themselves as so-and-so "from the CIA".

Undoubtedly, Grenadians are now beginning to think twice about what were the real intentions of the Americans when they invaded their country. Even the ruling Interim Advisory Council which is supposed to be in charge are feeling cramped. They are finding Americans in control everywhere, and the Americans are answerable only to the Governor-General. This is probably why the Council announced earlier this week that it would not make a date for elections until all the foreign troops have pulled out, or some sort of timetable for their pulling out is drawn up.

As for the elections, it is becoming more clear to most Grenadians that the Americans are trying their best to prevent the NJM from ever being able to participate in the process when it is called. There is a feeling that despite anything, it is possible that the atrocities of the American troops can make the people turn to what is left of the NJM leadership. Already a great section of the people are said to be complaining about the inhuman way the Americans are treating even Coard and the others who are being held at a separate detention centre at the Richmond Hill Prisons.

Others are also saying that the Yankees are holding more political prisoners in the past three weeks than the NJM held throughout its four and a half years in power, without charge and without trial. They even detained former Minister of Justice Kenrick Radix earlier this week, accusing him of inciting people against the Americans. Radix had reportedly earlier said that he supported the invasion.

Meanwhile, hundreds of relatives are still trying to locate missing persons. They don't know who is in detention from who is dead, and there is no way to know. Hundreds are missing since the day of the invasion, much more than on October 19, the day Bishop died. Pressure is mounting for the Yankees to give an indication as to how many Grenadians they have killed, but the Americans are said to be strongly resisting these pressures. Similar calls are being made by parties and organisations outside Grenada, but with no response from the Americans.

CSO: 3298/251

LOCAL POLICEMEN IN ROTATION FOR SERVICE IN GRENADA

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 12 Nov 83 p 1

[Text] Eleven of 20 St. Lucian policemen on duty in strife-torn Grenada, returned home yesterday to an appreciative welcome from their countrymen.

The Special Service Unit (SSU) men under Inspector Kim Louis had been in Grenada for the past two weeks, from the day of the American led multi-national invasion on October 25, following a bloody coup which deposed and killed leftist Prime Minister Maurice Bishop.

Nine men of the original SSU squad have stayed on in Grenada for further duty and are expected to return home next week, Inspector Louis said.

The SSU men, who left St. Lucia on October 23, for Barbados, arrived in Grenada two days later and stayed at the Point Salines airport for four days where they were detailed to take care of Cuban prisoners of war, while a fierce battle raged between the Cubans and the Americans.

Louis described his sojourn in Grenada as "rough, very rough from the beginning."

Safeguard

He said that the duty of the St. Lucian squad was to safeguard the Richmond Hills prison, where they guarded five political prisoners, Bernard and Phyllis Coard, Hudson Austin, Leon Cornwall and Edward Joseph Layne, all captured during the conflict.

"We had these prisoners who were brought in on Sunday to safeguard, as well as 83 other Grenadian prisoners who had broken jail in the time of the crisis but had returned voluntarily.

"We had to guard these prisoners, particularly the five involved in the coup, day and night. We had them each in a separate cell alone, because at no time did we want them to communicate."

Other members of the returning squad although seemingly exhausted were in high spirits on the airport yesterday and expressed their joy at returning home.

"It was hard, and we went about five days without a bath or sleep, but it was a great experience and we participated in something that we had only seen on television and read about," one policeman was overheard saying.

A contingent of 24 St. Lucian policemen under Inspector Peter Eudoxie also left the island yesterday for Grenada.

The policemen who volunteered their services will resume duties at the Richmond Hill prisons.

In pictures, above [not reproduced], members of the SSU squad who returned. Below [picture not reproduced], the group of policemen who flew out to Grenada.

CSO: 3298/251

DEVELOPMENT BANK PUBLISHES SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

Castries THE VOICE in English 23 Nov 83 p 1

[Text]

THE St. Lucia Development Bank (SLDB) which started operations in February 1981 is beginning to perform its task of promoting economic development of St. Lucia.

So says SLDB Chairman George Theophilus in the Bank's second annual report recently published.

Theophilus said the Bank had obtained lines of credit from the Barbados-based Caribbean Development Bank for agriculture, industry, tourism, housing and manpower training, to enable it to carry out its task.

INTENDED

According to the report, housing has been one of the Bank's prime areas of activity in the last two years. It said that most of the loans were for borrowers in the Castries area where demand was highest. These loans were intended for home improvements, construction and purchases.

The report states that of the 488 applications received in 1982-83, by the Bank, 251 were for housing. The Bank's loan commitments totalled \$4.7 million and of this, \$2.7 million or 57.4 per cent went towards housing.

But the report expressed the SLDB's disappointment with the disbursement rate in the field of agriculture. It said there was "a perverse historical legacy" of unsupervised loan disbursement practice which "repeat" agricultural borrowers tended to expect.

It said that perpetuation of this practice was wholly at variance with "proper and purposeful development banking behaviour" and would certainly affect the goals of agricultural credit.

The report added that the Bank would have to exert its energies in an effort to change the psychology of "free

money" which seemed to have developed over the years.

During the year, April 1982 to March 1983, the SLDB approved 41 loan agriculture applications amounting to \$265,906.

Since 1982 also, the Bank has approved five loans in the industrial sector totalling \$795,000 but the report said that manufacturing loan approval had fallen short of expectations reflecting partly the depressed state of business expectations in a period of inflation and recession as well as the poor quality of projects reaching the Bank.

The manufacturing enterprises which received financial support will produce such products as bacon, ham, pork, beef, sausages, smoked fish and pickled products, electronic components, furniture, toilet paper and paper napkins, the report said.

It added that the bulk of these items would be for local consumption and export to the region. The electronic components will be for the United States market.

In tourism, the SLDB received eight applications for loans, but approved only one, while two others are pending.

ENDEAVOUR

Overall, the Bank said that the quality of projects being submitted to it for loan financing was "extremely dubious." It said: "Often unresearched, unanalysed and uncosted, many projects turn out to be mere hunches, ideas or just plain dreams of wealth. In the endeavour to convert these into costed projects, the Bank is already being given an undeserved reputation for long-winding and dilatory procedures."

The cash position of the SLDB rose from \$132,057 in February 1981 to \$2.5 million in March 1982 and \$3.6 million a year later.

The report revealed that a new line of credit of US\$1 million had been negotiated with the CDB to enable the Bank to continue its house mortgage activity.

CSO: 3298/251

PLP RAPS 'DISTORTIONS, INACCURACIES' IN WALL STREET JOURNAL

Castries CRUSADER in English 3 Dec 83 p 10

[Text] The Progressive Labour Party wishes to express its regret that the Wall Street Journal of November 3rd, 1983 in an article entitled "Plotting that had the Eastern Caribbean on Edge" should use distortions and inaccuracies in order to defame the PLP in St. Lucia and its Party Leader--George Odium.

The article written by one Albert Xavier refers to a meeting of radicals held on Rat Island in 1976 with the intention of plotting a Communist course for the Caribbean.

The PLP wishes to point out the following inaccuracies:

- 1) There was no such meeting held on Rat Island in St. Lucia in 1976. A gathering of that kind was held in 1970 but the purpose of the meeting had nothing to do with the kind of plot suggested in the article.
- 2) There were no General Elections in St. Lucia in 1976 which the article claimed was occupying Premier Compton's mind. The Elections in St. Lucia were in 1974 and 1979.
- 3) Mr. Tim Hector of the Antigua Caribbean Liberation Movement was not present at any such meeting.
- 4) Mr. Bernard Coard of Grenada was never present at any such meeting.
- 5) There was no meeting of the kind held at St. Augustine Campus.
- 6) The meeting in Grenada in August 1979 was not a meeting of leftists or radicals. It was a formal meeting of three Eastern Caribbean Governments headed by Mr. Maurice Bishop of Grenada, Mr. Louisy of St. Lucia and Mr. Seraphin of Dominica.

Finally, the PLP wishes to point out that its Party Leader has always espoused the Ballot Box as a means of achieving political office providing that the Ballot is fair and not rigged. Whenever rigging and manipulation of the ballot is consistent then other forms of effecting political changes must be explored.

The PLP deplores the wilful distortion of facts by the Wall Street Journal in order to defame the Party Leader.

PLP ORGAN REPORTS EXAMPLES OF 'CORRUPTION' BY UWP

Castries CRUSADER in English 3 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] Prime Minister Compton and his United Workers Party were tumbling over themselves with gratitude that the events in Grenada took the spotlight away from the hot-bed of corruption that was quietly unfolding in St. Lucia months after the Party promised the electorate to wipe out corruption and "Stop the Payola."

Just when the Copra Scandal which is severely embarrassing Minister D'Auvergne's Ministry looked as if it would find its way into the courts in civil suits since the Government was unwilling to grasp the nettle, the Grenada Affair pushed the affairs of Copra Manufacturers into the background giving certain key persons in the community enough time to arrange their retreat to Miami.

The Cement Racket

But even while the Grenada issue was in the headlines the Police was called to Vieux-Fort to witness a sleazy operation in which the principal importer of Cement in St. Lucia was using the bags of French and Columbian Cement dealers to put his own imported Mexican cement in. The Mexican Cement was of inferior quality and bought on the high seas by ship-to-ship transfer and the trick of using the bags of other firms was simply to deceive the consumers and charge them a higher price for an inferior product.

The Police was on time to witness the operation and samples of the cement and the bags used are available as evidence if needed. Trade Minister Mallet then had an excellent opportunity to back up all his smooth-talk about protecting the consumers and taking a hard line with businessmen who try to exploit the consumer. But the Minister was faced with having to deal with a businessman who supported his Party financially at the last elections and who continues to provide such support. On the other hand Minister Mallet had to face another competitor who sought and obtained a license to bring in cement from Guadeloupe at a much cheaper price for the St. Lucian consumer. The Minister was clearly caught between his Party's obligation to the local dealer who had been given a concession by the Minister and the other dealer who would provide St. Lucians with cheaper cement. Minister Mallet at some stage gave the dealer providing cheaper cement a license to import some but

when the storm of protest broke out from the local dealer and his Party supporters, the Minister was forced to call both of the dealers in and asked them to work out a settlement among themselves which would save his face since the cement issue was potentially embarrassing for him.

At this stage when the Police was called in and found the Government's approved Cement dealer getting up to those bag-swapping tricks the Prime Minister had to step in and cancelled the license given to the dealer providing cheaper cement from Guadeloupe. The Party hack had won that round, the Prime Minister had intervened since Minister Mallet was his usual wishy-washy self in handling these sensitive matters, which surround his involvement in buying and selling commodities.

But the other dealer who incidentally is part of a locally established Company also had his strong contacts with the French Government which was considering a \$10 million Housing loan for St. Lucia. The French Government had quietly expressed its disappointment at the Government's failure to punish such criminal trading acts and the French Chamber of Commerce was activated and was monitoring the Compton Government's decision in this matter.

When the cat appeared to be out of the bag and the Government's efforts to protect certain local dealers who were exploiting the consumers became open, the Government backed down and restored the license it had previously issued to bring in the cheaper Guadeloupe cement which benefited from the devaluation of the French Franc. The Prime Minister was furious and accused the Company which brought in the cheaper cement of stirring up trouble for the Government and up to now the Compton Administration has covered up the criminal actions of the Trader who finances the United Workers Party.

The local Chamber of Commerce President Charmaine Gardiner has not taken time off from CBI jaunts in order to either inform the public about these goings-on or to state the principles which traders should follow in order to preserve the integrity of the Chamber. During the Labour Administration the Chamber was one of the severest critics of the Administration but suddenly it has become part of the official conspiracy of silence. The usually-vocal Primrose Bledman and the Manufacturers Association also said nothing of this flagrant breach of trading practice and the consequences for the consumers.

Work Permit Scandal

On Wednesday this week the Voice, in its headline story revealed that Muellindhar Tekchandany's Work Permit to operate the Starlite shope in St. Lucia was revoked.

The handling of work permits by Government authorities is another area which is reputed to involve a tremendous amount of 'bobol' and corruption from the early days of previous U.W.P. Administrations and which survived the Labour Party Regime and continues to plague the present Government. The Ministry entrusted with this vital area of control is the Ministry of Communications, Works and Labour. It is now public knowledge that officials in that Ministry, including the Minister have been recipients of underhand monetary

incentives to issue work permits to persons wishing to operate business in St. Lucia.

The granting of a work permit to Mr. Tekchandany seemed to have been done in the usual shady manner which has now become the norm in the Ministry. Minister Mason has been making a desperate attempt to clear himself of the Tekchandany case and is saying in certain circles that he was not responsible for that particular work permit, and that the Mr. Tekchandany was granted his license during his (the Minister's) absence from the state. However informed sources have revealed that a Ministry Official received \$10,000 "under-the-table" to allow the proprietor of STARLITE to operate his business here. The question being asked by other Ministers is "who received the money?" Was it Minister Mason; his Parliamentary Secretary? Brian Charles or the Permanent Secretary. This suspicion is further strengthened by an attempt by Mr. Tekchandany to bribe a well known U.W.P. Senator who is also a prominent figure in the Small Business Association. Apparently Mr. Tekchandany has been properly briefed about the weakness of U.W.P. Ministers and Senators to bribes, so he has decided to explore this weakness like has been done by many foreigners who came before him.

It is interesting that STARLITE is still operating two days after the deadline given by the Minister of Works to close its doors. In his corner Tekchandany has retained the services of McNamara & Co., a well known Law Firm in St. Lucia and close associates of the United Workers Party. It will be worth noting what new set of face-saving manoeuvres will be employed by the government to get the culprit from the Ministry of Works off the hook.

What is now obvious in the midst of all the corruption pervading the present Administration is the seeming powerlessness of the Prime Minister to keep his Ministers on a straight course and to deal with the increasing acts of dishonesty which are surfacing in Government. But, can a corrupt Prime Minister correct corrupt Ministers?

Sale of Asphalt Plant

The Prime Minister's own dealings in recent months have been just as suspicious and in some case clearly dishonest. The Prime Minister stood by and allowed C.O. Williams, a Bajan working in St. Lucia, to purchase an Asphalt Plant from the Venezuelans at a price way below the market value of the plant, knowing full well that that bit of equipment could have helped significantly to reduce the country's expenditure on Asphalt. In fact as has been revealed by this paper St. Lucia's purchase of asphalt from Mr. Williams for one year will more than compensate him for his expenditure in buying the plant. St. Lucians have been asking why was the plant not bought by Government?

Sale of PM's Residence to Venezuela

An obvious connection has been the sale of the Prime Minister's own house to the Venezuelans for \$1,200,000, a price way above its market value. Is it a situation of you scratch my back and I will scratch yours? If that is

not the case then why were the Venezuelans prepared to pay such a high price for a building that would cost a lot less to construct. As one observer commented, "up to now the revenue collectors have not received a cent from the transaction. Does a Prime Minister have the right to violate the very laws which he is elected to enforce?"

It is high time that the public begins to demand the truth behind those shady transactions and take a positive step towards eradicating corruption and corrupt elements from the Government of this country. The electorate must not allow itself to be so blatantly short-changed without demanding better. The Grenada smoke-screen has lifted and left the realities of incompetence, dishonesty and lack of direction firmly in place in our government. We must now rise and rescue our own State from the downward plunge in which the Government is diverting it.

CSO: 3298/281

EDITORIAL SCORES GOVERNMENT HANDLING OF WORK PERMIT ISSUE

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 3 Dec 83 p 2

[Editorial: "The Work Permit Issue"]

[Text] The work permit system has again come under scrutiny, raising serious questions of foreign nationals engaging in certain types of work in direct competition with St. Lucian nationals.

This area of the law, and its operation has aroused the mood of large sections of the community, and in particular the private sector.

We are a small over-crowded community and jobs are scarce. We must take care of our own people before we begin to take care of others. The question always arises whether there are enough jobs to go around to fill the need of our nationals and to justify the liberal dishing out of work permits without proper investigation and careful analysis of the applications.

The case of Mr. Teckchandany is one in point. This gentleman was given a work permit by the Government to establish a business under certain conditions. He proceeds to enlarge the scope of his operations in violation of the terms of the agreement. He engages other people to work for him and seems to believe that because his goods are cheaper than those of local merchants, he has a right to remain here. How is he able to do it?

How does Mr. Teckchandany, regardless of his good intentions, accumulate so much clout within so short a space of time that he is now prepared to challenge the Government which revoked his permit to the extent of canvassing signatures for a petition which seeks to fight his cause?

And we must ask too why is the Minister of Labour prepared to reconsider Teckchandany's situation after, according to the Minister, this man has violated the conditions under which he was allowed to operate here.

In fact, Teckchandany was still in business up to yesterday.

In considering the whole question of the operation of the work permit system we must examine questions of policy. Are we going to permit competition by foreigners with St. Lucian nationals? This is the burning question. Where

locals are already engaged in certain types of businesses should spurious representations receive favourable consideration with the Minister to the detriment of our nationals?

The ease with which foreign nations obtain work permits in this country is causing concern in our community. This brings us to the next question, which is the number of illegal immigrants who are working here without permits. Is St. Lucia an open door? Are there corresponding benefits granted to our nationals in other countries?

In the U.K., our people are not wanted and have been offered money to return home. Why then should we benefit those who do not want us? Why are we accommodating nationals from other countries without reciprocity? This policy smacks of subordination to an inferior status and is repugnant to national sovereignty.

The Government must be aware that St. Lucians are extremely restless over the work permit situation, a very sensitive issue at this time.

In May 1982, St. Lucians overwhelmingly elected a Government to look after their interests. Is this Government going to frustrate their wishes?

We suggest that it is over time for the appointment of a proper Work Permit Committee, not the hand picked political body that successive governments have appointed in recent years, but a truly independent group. We need too proper machinery to investigate applications thoroughly and to determine that there is no alternative but to allow employment to foreign nationals.

The Government owes its people that much in a time of high unemployment.

CSO: 3298/281

RENT ON SOME GOVERNMENT HOUSING SET TO RISE; CENAC WANTS DEBATE

Bousquet Announcement

Castries THE VOICE in English 30 Nov 83 p 14

[Text] Persons occupying Government houses in the CDC and La Clery areas will pay increased rentals from next March.

Housing Minister Allan Bousquet made this disclosure in the House of Assembly last Friday. He said that the Housing Authority, a statutory body which operates the two housing estates, was in debt to the tune of \$1.8 million.

Costs of maintaining the units had placed a burden on the Authority, Bousquet said, adding that unless the Authority was able to provide maintenance for the tenants, the housing areas would degenerate into slums.

According to Bousquet, residential tenants in the Castries Housing Estate (the CDC) would pay increased rentals of 50 percent from next March. Persons renting the shopping units would be required to pay double the present rental. In the case of the La Clery units, the increases would range between 100 and 300 percent.

Bousquet itemised the Authority's bill of indebtedness which included \$746,659 owed to the National Insurance Scheme (NIS), \$295,048 to the Central Water Authority (the Government pays the water bills of the consumers in the two housing areas), \$250,000 to the Government, and \$125,000 each to the Castries City Council and the Royal Bank and private sector suppliers.

The Authority also owes the Cooperative Bank \$61,526, Colonial Life Insurance \$17,606 and a former employee of the Authority, salary totalling \$21,000.

The following is Mr. Bousquet's statement to the House last Friday:

"The sharply rising costs of maintaining the CDC and La Clery Housing Estates have imposed an increasingly severe burden on the St. Lucia Housing Authority which has during the last few years endeavoured to provide a

reasonable level of maintenance of the units within the limits of the available rentals.

"Within the last two years, the cost of maintenance has been rising so steeply that it has become more and more impossible for the Housing Authority to meet the barest requirements for the upkeep and cleanliness of the Estates. From the latest calculations made, the monthly maintenance cost is \$21,000, total rentals payable is \$24,000 half of which is hardly collected.

"Recent figures have shown that the Authority is indebted to the tune of \$1.8 million, of the sum the two largest amounts are: \$746,659 due the National Insurance Scheme on a loan made to the Authority in 1977 to carry out major improvements and renovations essentially in the CDC Housing Estate. The Central Water Authority is due payment of \$295,048, for water supplied over a number of years. Non-payment of rentals has contributed to this situation. The amount owed by tenants who are in arrears of rent, is \$74,000.

"In recent months the Housing Authority in a desperate effort to reduce its losses and its steadily increasing indebtedness to various public and private sector organisations, sharply cut back on its maintenance crew, and made a number of basic changes in its day-to-day operations. While these changes have reduced the day-to-day operations, they have not made any real impact on the monthly deficit which the Authority continues to be faced with.

"In addition, the reduced level of maintenance has resulted in increasingly unattractive, insanitary and unhealthy conditions in what are essentially residential areas.

"It has therefore become absolutely necessary for the Authority to review its operations at both housing estates and to seek to provide a reasonable level of upkeep and maintenance for the tenants of those areas. Otherwise the areas generally will undoubtedly, and within a very short time, degenerate into slums. This must not be allowed to happen.

"After protracted consideration of the situation the Housing Authority found itself faced with no alternative but to review the rentals now payable so as to ensure for its tenants comfortable and healthy living conditions and to be able to satisfactorily meet its commitments.

"It has therefore been recommended to Government and approval has been given for a 50 percent increase in the rentals for apartments and 100 percent increase for the shopping units in the CDC Housing area. Increases for the La Clery Housing Area will range between 100-300 percent. These rentals will include the cost of monthly water consumption. At present no one pays for water though the monthly bill for water is \$10,000.

"It is necessary that adequate notice of the increased rentals should be given to all tenants. It was therefore agreed that the new rates would come into effect as of 1st March, 1984.

"It must be noted that the increased rentals would reflect the cost of month water consumption.

"Finally, Government will make provisions in the 1984-1985 budget to pay rentals for 10 indigent tenants."

Cenac Request

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 3 Dec 83 p 2

[Text] Opposition Leader Neville Cenac has urged the Government to postpone its decision to increase rentals in the Government Housing Estates until the House of Assembly debates the matter.

The request is contained in a letter sent by Mr. Cenac to the parliamentary representative for Central Castries George Mallet.

Housing Minister Allan Bousquet last Friday told the House of the intention to raise the rentals of the CDC residential units by 50 percent, shopping units by 100 percent and the La Clery houses by between 100 and 300 percent from next March.

Bousquet said the increases were necessary to help maintain the units and improve the financial position of the Housing Authority which was in debt to the tune of \$1.8 million.

But Cenac said in his letter that the course of action proposed would, "especially in these very hard times," cause additional hardship to tenants.

He added that "a matter of such importance" should not be permitted by any Government to be concluded without debate.

He added: "This letter is intended to urge you (having regard to the fact that you are the representative of Central Castries) to persuade Cabinet to keep its decision in abeyance until an opportunity has been given to members of the House to examine and debate the Minister's statement."

CSO: 3298/281

BRIEFS

ECONOMIC DISTRESS--South Castries Representative Jon Odlum told a Grenadian Solidarity Rally on the Castries Market Steps last Thursday that St. Lucia has virtually stood still with nothing at all happening on the economic front ever since the Compton Administration took office. He said that the Libyan Scholarship Affair was used to conceal this fact and now preoccupation with the Grenada Invasion has brought about an even more rapid deterioration in the lives of St. Lucians. "St. Lucians are hungry, penniless and jobless," said the South Castries Parliamentarian. He said that almost the whole community was suffering with acute problems of survival, victimisation, unemployment, erosion of human rights, violation of workers rights, suppression of trade unions and excessive corruption. He said that the "hard times" at present being experienced by St. Lucians have direct consequences for their families. There is no liquidity in the banks and no jobs to allow St. Lucians to earn money, consequently homes and properties are being seized by banks since people are unable to service their loans. Electricity rates are climbing just when St. Lucians cannot afford to pay so lights and telephone are being cut daily since St. Lucians cannot pay their bills. All this hardship is being swept under the carpet while the Prime Minister is running all over the world defending the foolishness and wickedness of the OECS leaders in causing the invasion of Grenada. [Text] [Castries CRUSADER in English 19 Nov 83 p 1]

TOURISM GAINS--Tourism figures for St. Lucia continue to increase and this is the best for the industry since 1981, say tourist officials. Figures released by the Tourist Board indicate that tourist arrivals have risen from 57,241 during a 10-month period from January to October 1982, to 62,462 over the same period this year, a 9.12 percent increase. Director of Tourism, Maria Laville said that she was pleased with the improvement of the Industry, but felt that "the island is not doing as well as it can. We can do better." She said that the upcoming winter season had so far proved promising with most hoteliers holding advanced bookings for the season. "We hope that we will have the best season ever." With regard to the Grenadian crisis, which aroused concern over the foreign opinion of the Caribbean as a Tourist destination, Ms. Laville said, proved to be a "mixed blessing." According to her, there were few cancellations from visitors to St. Lucia during the peak of the crisis and rather than hurting the island's tourism industry, the issue had created an aura of mystery which would prove to entice the visitor. [Excerpts] [Castries THE VOICE in English 23 Nov 83 p 18]

SLP OFFICE--The Saint Lucia Labour Party has established a Central Party Office in the building of the Saint Lucia Workers Union. The establishment of the new headquarters has come out of a recommendation from the SLP Special Standing Committee which is dealing with the reorganisation and modernization of the Party. The Party will hold its first Central Executive Committee meeting at its new office headquarters tomorrow evening December 1st at 6.30 pm. At that meeting the Executive will be presented with a final report from the Special Standing Committee. The Central Executive Committee will also discuss the plans for the previously announced Special Conference of Delegates to be held in February next year. It will also examine the setting up of the special sub-committees dealing with the preparation of a National Socio-economic plan for presentation to the Central Executive. [Text] [Castries THE VOICE in English 30 Nov 83 p 14]

PARKS, BEACHES COMMISSION--The recently constituted Parks and Beaches Commission has set its priority of work following its inaugural meeting last month. According to Commission Chairman James Salton, improving security on the island's popular recreational beaches for both locals and tourists, and improving facilities for vendors through a process of licensing and the erection of stalls, will be the Commission's first tasks. The Commission has decided to visit all hotel beaches on the island and meet with beach vendors and hotel managers to discuss mutual problems so as to improve relations and facilities. The other members of the Commission are Mr. Joseph Desir (vice chairman), Mr. Allan Edmunds, Mr. Gabriel Charles, Mrs Winifred Floissac, Miss Cynthia Joseph, Mr. Greg Glace, Commissioner of Police Cuthbert Phillips and Mrs Arlette Augier, permanent secretary in the Ministry of Tourism. The functions of the Commission include: to control, maintain and develop parks, gardens and beaches and improve security; to secure sanitary and clean conditions in Parks and Beaches; to advise the Minister on the erection of beach and ancillary recreational facilities; generally to carry out the Parks and Beaches Commission Act of 1983 and to advise on environmental issues relative to Parks and Beaches. [Text] [Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 3 Dec 83 p 2]

CSO: 3298/282

CONTINUING REACTION TO, ASSESSMENT OF GRENADA EVENTS

OWTU Position

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 12 Nov 83 pp 6-7

[Advertisement; passages within slantlines published in boldface]

[Text] The following correspondence and statements tell a story of close and fraternal relations between the Executive and Members of the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union and the leadership and people of Grenada. A relationship that was set in place by the sharing of that outstanding leader of working people and national hero--Tubal Uriah Butler. A relationship that was immeasurably strengthened by the mutual solidarity between the two peoples during the intense struggles for peace, bread and justice throughout the 1970's. A relationship that was deepened by the momentous events of March 13th, 1979 when the Peoples' Revolutionary Government of Grenada came into being under the leadership of Maurice Bishop. It was this relationship that led to the historic reception hosted by the OWTU for Prime Minister Bishop when he was in Trinidad in July attending the Caricom Summit.

Throughout the crisis in Grenada the OWTU Executive, General Council and Annual Conference of Delegates have democratically discussed the Grenada crisis and have consistently taken a principled stand--condemning the Butchers of St. Georges, condemning the imperialist invasion and the duplicity of certain Caricom leaders and most importantly supporting the Grenadian people in their struggle to chart their own destiny. We stand by our positions and for the benefit of the people of Trinidad and Tobago, the Caribbean and the world we publish where we stand!

Statement on Invasion

November 1st, 1983

The Executive Committee of the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union acting on its mandate unanimously agreed to on the 29th October, 1983 by delegates to the 44th Annual Conference, joins the great majority of /governments, parliamentary opposition/, the many /trade unions, progressive anti-mafia managers, editors/ and /journalists/ of the new media, other concerned organisations and people of the world over who have expressed /disappointment, disapproval/

and /condemnation/ of cowardly military invasion of tiny Grenada by the /super-power/ United States of America. In this regard we note the overwhelming vote of members of the United Nations Security Council, deeply deploring the armed invasion of Grenada resulting in the deaths of innocent civilians and accused the United States of America and Caribbean puppet leaders of flagrant violation of international Law and of the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Grenada and called for immediate cessation of the armed invasion and the immediate withdrawal of the foreign invaders from Grenada.

War

This military intervention by thousands of elite U.S. combat troops is also in violation of the Organisation of American States Charter, and is /undeclared war/ by the Reagan Administration against the Grenadian people in particular and the peace loving Caribbean people in general.

The events in Grenada over the past two weeks unveil a tragedy for the Grenadian people and have put a temporary halt to the processes of /a new democracy/ they were developing since March 1979. Indeed, it has been a tragedy for the entire Caribbean people who had joined with the Grenadian people in posing an alternative way forward and offered a sense of hope for the future to the oppressed and exploited everywhere. That hope turned into despair with the brutal murder of the revolutionary leader, Prime Minister /Maurice Bishop/ and other Grenadian patriots. Now the worst fears of many have been realised with the direct military intervention of American combat troops. Free Grenada is no more. Freedom was first high-jacked by the Butchers of St. Georges and this laid the foundation for the invasion of foreign troops. Grenada is now a United States /occupied country/.

Spirit of Bishop

And it will take the undoubted unity and courage of the Grenadian people following in the tradition and spirit of Fedon, Marryshow, Butler and Bishop supported by the freedom loving Caribbean people to struggle against foreign intervention and imposition supported by corrupt local lackeys to establish once again a Free Grenada. To this end the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union is committed.

The Oilfields Workers' Trade Union understands the sentiments expressed by many who wish to be rid of the Butchers of St. Georges. We too, wish to see the end of the Butchers of St. Georges. But we are convinced that the invasion of Grenada by troops of the super power United States of America, "backed" by a token number of Caribbean policemen, ill-equipped and poorly trained soldiers, does not have as its only objectives the protection of American lives, the removal of the /Coard/ and /Austin/ militarist clique and the restoration of true democracy in Grenada.

The Reagan Administration has always wished to see an end to the /process of new democracy in Grenada/. They wanted to put an end to the efforts of

the Grenadian people who were building a free country that was an inspiration to the entire working people of the Caribbean. Indeed the records will show that over the past four (4) years the Reagan Administration secretly decided on a military rather than a political solution therefore they had developed sophisticated plans for the military invasion of Grenada. We only have to recall the numerous military and naval exercises in the Caribbean, the establishment of a Naval Task Force in the region, and the very important Statement made by the American Ambassador to France Evan Galbraith where he is reported on page 24 of the Express of October 27, 1983 to have said it was an action which had begun two weeks ago before the October 19 murder of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop. /Coard, Austin, Cornwall/ and other militarists gave Reagan who had the willing compliance of the puppets /Seaga, Adams, Charles, Cato/, and /Compton/ well known political sweethearts and bed fellows of his reactionary policies--the opportunity he has so badly wanted for the past four (4) years, an opportunity to invade Grenada and set up a client Government. On the other hand it is difficult to believe that the play of political events could have been turned into a situation so favourable for U.S. intervention without conscious and deliberate undercover manipulation of their agents.

Stooge Governments

The Union like all those who are truly against war and aggression moreso against a small nation is disgusted by the fact that Seaga, Adams, Cato, Compton, Bird, and Charles agreed as their first option to act in concert with Reagan to have U.S. troops invade Grenada and thus bring further violence and destruction on the Grenadian people resulting in more loss of life and bloodshed and from all reports more than 40 Grenadians were killed during the bombing of the St. Georges hospital alone and many more resulting from the invasion in general. The number of those killed and wounded and the amount of destruction is far far greater than those killed by the local Butchers of St. Georges. And it must never be forgotten that despite the decision of Caricom governments at the level of the Heads of Government to try peacefully to resolve the crisis in Grenada, no such effort was honestly made, nor was it intended so to do by Adams, Seaga, Cato, Compton, or Charles. They and the U.S. planned all along and secretly conspired behind the backs of the Government and People of Trinidad and Tobago to invade. In addition the U.S. forces are moving in "Butcher" style by first refusing entry to the news media and after great pressure appointed a few reporters to visit selected spots in Grenada while enforcing a Curfew in Grenada.

For their part in the invasion, the hands of puppets like Seaga, Adams, Cato, Compton, Bird, and Charles will forever be stained with the innocent blood of Grenadians for having sold out the Sovereignty of the Grenadian and Caribbean people perhaps for a few pieces of the CBI crumbs. Moreover by their actions these narrow minded leaders have put the future of Caricom in jeopardy, thus achieving another objective of Reagan breaking up the unity of Caribbean States. For these crimes history will never absolve them.

Nightmare

The Oilfields Workers' Trade Union is proud to stand by its position as mandated at our 44th Annual Conference of Delegates. We stand courageously and firmly with the people of Grenada who have been through a nightmare--a nightmare of having their revolutionary leaders murdered, of being put under brutal martial law, of being reduced to an /occupied country/. We are committed to defending the right of the Grenadian people themselves to debate, work out and determine what path they wish to follow, what economic system they wish to have and the form of political relationships and institutions they desire. Nobody, no power or super-power or outside force must order or impose on them what is to be done or how it should be done.

We stand by the principles as enunciated by the /Declaration of Independence/ of the United States of America:

/"When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

/"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these and, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundations on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness."/

Right to Revolution

We challenge the Reagan administration and the puppet leaders of Caribbean Governments that are responsible for so much bloodshed and loss of Grenadians and even American lives by their disgraceful agreement to invade Grenada, to defend their position vis-a-vis the said Declaration. For just as it was the right of the Grenadian people to abolish the Gairy regime so it is the Right of the (Grenadian) people to abolish the Government of the revolutionary military council and to institute new Government, laying its foundations on such principles and organising its powers in such form, as to them (the Grenadian people), and not Reagan, Seaga, Adams, Cato, Compton, Bird, and Charles, or any other state, shall deem most likely to effect their (the Grenadian people's) /safety and happiness/.

The OWTU gives strong support to the courageous and principled stand taken by the Government and parliamentary opposition of Trinidad and Tobago, the Labour Congress, the Council of Progressive Trade Unions, other organisations and individuals in opposition to the illegal and bloody invasion of

small Grenada by the world /super-power/ (United States). We therefore advise the government to reassess their role in Caricom and warn the Prime Minister that in future, care must be taken in dealing with traitors such as the puppets Seaga, Charles, Cato, Compton, Bird, and Adams to ensure that agreements reached are not subsequently reneged upon or again betrayed.

Finally, the OWTU demands the following: 1) the immediate cessation of the armed invasion and withdrawal of all foreign troops, 2) full compensation for all those killed, wounded and who suffered property destruction, 3) no Constitution or government be forced on Grenadians without these agreements and 4) we call all Political Parties, Trade Unions, other organisations who are in support of the decision of the United Nations as outlined in Paragraph one (1) to unite and organise for mass demonstrations in support of the above four (4) demands.

For and on behalf of the Executive Committee, General Council, and the 44th Annual Conference of Delegates.

Signed--George Weekes, President General, Oilfields Workers' Trade Union

Cable to Grenada During Crisis

Secretary,
New Jewel Movement

17th October 1983

Executive Committee of Oilfields Workers' Trade Union deeply concerned over current developments within Peoples Revolutionary Government of Grenada. Vitally necessary to save revolution in interest of Grenadian people in particular and Caribbean in general. To this end imperative internal conflict among leadership be overcome. In interest of peaceful and deeper development of revolution suggest that issues be taken to rank and file of party and more especially masses of people for democratic settlement. Vital to demonstrate that new peoples democracy of Grenada is capable of addressing and of triumphing over passing difficulties. Grenadian community in OWTU concerned over safety of Comrade Bishop. Important that safety of all lives be ensured. We stand by your disposal to assist.

Copied to: Bishop, Coard, Strachan, Whiteman, Louison, Austin, Radix.

Signed--George Weekes, President General--O.W.T.U.

Letter to Caricom Emergency Meeting

The Chairman,
Caricom Heads of Government

23rd October, 1983

Please find attached an emergency Resolution passed by the Forty Fourth (44th) Annual Conference of Delegates of the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union, the highest decision making body of the Union, which is currently meeting in San Fernando.

This Resolution follows an appeal made by the Executive Committee of the Union on Sunday October 16th, 1983, to the leaders of the New Jewel Movement to have the crisis then taking place in the Leadership resolved by the people of Grenada and a subsequent resolution passed by an Emergency Meeting of the Union's General Council held on Thursday October 20th, 1983 condemning the brutal murders of Comrade Bishop and other patriots and deciding to organise a number of activities in support of and in solidarity with the Grenadian people.

The resolution is self-explanatory and we expect that the Caricom Heads of Government will take serious consideration of its content.

Yours faithfully,
Oilfields Workers' Trade Union

Signed--Errol McLeod, 1st Vice President

Resolution on Crisis in Grenada

Horrified by the brutal murder of Comrade Maurice Bishop, outstanding Revolutionary leader of the Grenadian people and of the Caribbean and the murder of many other patriots of Grenada by the Butchers of St. Georges.

Recognising that the revolutionary process in Grenada began on March 13th, 1979 was establishing a new democracy based on people's power giving hope to the working people of the entire Caribbean.

Realising that the tragic events of October 19th, 1983, in Grenada were a blow not only to the Grenadian people but to the Caribbean as a whole.

Understanding that the bastard deeds of the Butchers of St. Georges have not only interrupted, the revolutionary process within Grenada but have also set the stage for imperialist intervention and subsequent recolonisation of Grenada and other nations in the Caribbean "Basin."

Faced with the threat of imminent invasion of Grenada by Imperialist Military Forces on the pretext of securing the safety of their citizens and by implications the protection of their imperialist interest in the Caribbean.

Be it resolved that this Forty Fourth (44th) Annual Conference of Delegates of the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union call on the Caricom Heads of Government currently meeting in Emergency Summit Session in Port of Spain to discuss the Grenada crisis to immediately warn the "Super Powers" and in particular the United States of America or any other State that there must be no military intervention whatsoever in Grenada or any other Caribbean Territory since this is an issue for the Grenadian people in particular and the Caribbean people in general and must be resolved by the people of Grenada and the people of the region.

And be it further resolved that this Forty Fourth (44th) Annual Conference of Delegates of the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union inform the Caricom Heads of Government that while the working people of Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean are deeply concerned over the blood of the Caribbean patriots who stood opposed to the Butchers of St. Georges we do not wish to see further bloodshed nor do we wish to see Caribbean peoples fighting Caribbean peoples and that therefore every peaceful effort should be made to ensure that the people of Grenada settle Accounts with the Butchers of St. Georges and so continue and consolidate in Grenada the process of building the New Democracy of Peoples Power which had emerged after March 13th, 1979.

Resolution on Crisis in Grenada

/In keeping with and in furtherance of the preamble to the resolution on the Grenada crisis passed at an earlier stage of this conference: /

Be it resolved: that this 44th Annual Conference of Delegates of the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union in session at Palms Club, San Fernando, on the 24th October, 1983 authorise the Executive and/or the General Council of the Union to call on all members, and to invite the co-operation and/or support of other Trade Unions and their members, of the working people in general and of all other concerned organisations and citizens at any time, and from time to time, to take any action in the interests of and/or in support of the people of Grenada aimed at:

- 1) Preventing any attempt from any quarter to yoke them without their consent, back under the harness of their Independence Constitution and/or the rulership of Eric Gairy and others with his political position.
- 2) Protesting any action and/or manoeuvres calculated or designed to frustrate and/or destroy without their consent the growth and development of the economic processes initiated and set in train in their country under the aegis of the P.R.G. after March 3th [sic], 1979.
- 3) Ensuring that the people of Grenada themselves be allowed, and be left free, to decide and work out what economic and/or political, Constitutional and/or legal course or courses, arrangement or arrangements, programme or programmes, they want to adopt and pursue for development of their country.

/It is important to note that this resolution was passed before the Americans invaded Grenada and before the stooges of Reagan made public their intention to reimpose the 1973 constitution on the Grenadian people./

From the Prime Minister of Grenada

July 14th, 1983

Dear Comrade Weekes,

Allow me on behalf of myself and my entire delegation to express our sincerest gratitude to you and to the executive and membership of the Oilfield Workers' Trade Union for the warm reception given us when we visited OWTU Headquarters in San Fernando on Friday, July 8th.

Although you were not physically present that evening, your spirit and outstanding example, none-the-less, was solidly in our midst. Fortunately, I was able to chat briefly with you at Piarco the following day. However, let me take this opportunity to restate our appreciation for the chance we had to meet and speak to so many OWTU comrades that evening, to share our perspectives with them and to learn first hand about their struggles and their progress.

I wish to register our thanks to your Vice President, Comrade Errol McLeod for his warm remarks in his introduction of our delegation and to Comrade David Abdullah and other executive members for their efforts at ensuring that the event was successful.

The fraternal relations between our Party, the NJM, and the OWTU go back a long way. We cherish those bonds of friendship and co-operation and we would endeavour in the future to further strengthen those links in the glorious tradition of Tubal Uriah Buzz Butler, national hero of revolutionary Grenada and of Trinidad and Tobago and fighter for the emancipation of the Caribbean working class.

Finally, we look forward to seeing you and many of your membership in Grenada for the 5th Anniversary of the Revolution next month, if not sooner.

With best personal wishes!

/Long live the O.W.T.U.!!/

/Long live the Caribbean working class!!/

Yours fraternally,

Signed--Maurice Bishop, Prime Minister

Letter From OWTU to P.M. Bishop

August 17th, 1983

Dear Comrade Prime Minister,

On behalf of the Executive, General Council and members of the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union I wish to state our profound joy at having been able to host the reception in your honour on the occasion of the first official visit in your capacity as Prime Minister of the Peoples' Revolutionary Government of Grenada that you made to Trinidad and Tobago during the recent Caricom Heads of Government Summit. The reception will go down in history as being another important event marking the close, fraternal relationship that has existed over the years between your party, Government and people of Grenada and the membership and Executive of the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union. It is indeed a relationship which has shone as a beacon for those who are committed to the unity of the toiling masses of the Caribbean.

In order to deepen even further our fraternal relationship and to enable OWTU members to benefit from the experiences of building Free Grenada, I, on behalf of the Executive, wish first to extend an invitation to a member of the People's Revolutionary Government to deliver a main address to the Union's 44th Annual Conference of Delegates to be held at our new Palms Club on Saturday October 22nd, 1983. The suggested theme is "The Role of Trade Unions in Building a New Caribbean Society."

Secondly, in recognition of the important 5th Anniversary Celebrations of the March 13th Revolution to be held next year the Union would like to organise a group of Union members to visit Free Grenada during the Celebrations as an act of Solidarity and support for the Revolution. We would like to start work on the arrangements for the proposed visit as soon as practicable in order to ensure maximum participation.

We look forward to your response on these proposals and wish once again to extend our greetings to yourself, the party, PRG and people of Free Grenada as you go about the herculean task of building and defending a new society against the wishes of and consequent attacks by imperialism.

Signed--George Weekes, President General

Last Correspondence Between O.W.T.U. and the P.R.G.

September 8th, 1983

Dear George,

I was very happy to receive your letter of August 17th. It was certainly a tremendous pleasure meeting you at the airport for those brief moments--the first time in Trinidad since the Grenada Revolution!

I enjoyed very much the reception hosted by the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union and I convey the deep and sincere appreciation of our entire delegation for the splendid arrangements made by the Executive, General Council and members of the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union. We will long remember the warmth and enthusiasm of all those who participated in the reception.

We have decided that Comrade Vincent Noel, Member of the People's Revolutionary Government, Secretary for National Mobilisation President, Bank and General Workers' Union and Vice President, Trade Union Council, will attend and address your 44th Annual Conference of Delegates on October 22nd. The suggested theme is extremely appropriate and very relevant to the present stage of the common struggle of the Caribbean working class for Justice and Social Progress.

Soon you will be hearing from the International Relations Department of our Party which I have directed to provide you with the necessary information on group visits for March 13, 1984. I am looking forward eagerly to receiving a great number of your people here for the 5th Festival. We really appreciate the continued solidarity and support of the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union and yourself.

I look forward to seeing you soon and I urge that you continue blazing a path of resolute struggle on behalf of the working people of our sister Caribbean nation.

Best wishes to you, the Executive, General Council and members of the Oil-fields Workers' Trade Union.

Yours fraternally,
Signed--Maurice Bishop

Problems in CARICOM

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 13 Nov 83 pp 6, 9

[Article by Wayne Brown]

[Text]

AN elementary tenet of diplomacy is that in an international confrontation one's opponent is allowed to "save face."

He is, after all, being required to retreat; mere pragmatism suggests that a door or doors should be left open to him.

One of the most startling and (it may yet turn out) tragic episodes of the Grenada cataclysm was the swiftness with which Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister, George Chambers, found himself with his back to the wall, all doors shut.

NIGHTMARE

The fact that, in a nightmare of punctured hubris and political

blundering, he stumbled around slamming most of those doors himself, does not absolve his chief opponent, Mr. Adams of Barbados, from his share of responsibility for the present Caricom crisis.

Mr. Adams could have (gently) reopened some of those doors for Mr. Chambers. It was both ungenerous and unstatesmanlike of him not to have done so.

It was also, in the long view, politically unwise: one suspects that, as

the situation evolves, it is not only the people of Trinidad and Tobago who are going to have to suffer the consequences of Mr. Adams's apparent unconcern for Mr. Chambers's predicament.

To reconstruct a little:

The first reaction of the Chambers's government to the murders of Bishop and his colleagues was oddly schizoid.

It began as a forward defensive prod (the army was to be deployed to keep Grenadians out of Trinidad) and ended as a "Voop." (the T&T Government was prepared to

do whatever was necessary to safeguard its nationals in Grenada).

Perhaps this was not really schizophrenia but merely a tentative running of the rhetorical scales, an experimental cleaning of the Cabinet's throat.

Certainly there seemed little harm in sending the regiment to the beach, and who can be sure that the Chambers's Cabinet was aware that in the language of serious diplomacy a phrase like "to do whatever necessary to safeguard" constitutes, and is understood by the addressee to constitute, a direct threat?

WAR-MAKING

The supposition that this was a rhetorical rather than a genuinely schizoid reaction to the Grenada massacre is supported by what has emerged of the first contact thereafter between Mr. Chambers and Mr. Adams's camp. Mr. Adams (or one of the OECS leaders)

requested Mr. Chambers, as Chairman of CARICOM, to convene an emergency meeting in Barbados.

Mr. Chambers replied that he was indeed the Chairman of Caricom and that therefore any such meeting should be held in Trinidad.

Though not many of us were aware of it at the time, this was bad sign. Seen in the best possible light, it suggested a man of undentable propriety, caught up in a situation to which mere propriety was clearly a woefully inadequate response.

In a harsher light one was forced to countenance the spectre of a Mr. Chambers so tormented by personal anxieties, by obsessive computations of what respect was owed to him, and by whom, to give anything like selfless attention to the epochal (and really very dangerous) events taking place on his doorstep.

Subsequent events may be glossed, they substantiated the tone set by that first exchange. While Barbados, Jamaica and the OECS joined the United States in the politically risky business of war-making, Mr. Chambers embarked upon an escalating sequence of complaints.

One heard of ingratitude, of double-cross, of treachery. 'I as Prime Minister,' 'I as Chairman of Caricom: those phrases (repeated ad nauseam, it seemed) came to sound like a cry for help, an oddly pathetic refrain, when heard in counterpoint to the din of war.

In the end, if one ignored the plainly implausible positions put forward by the Chambers's Government from time to time — that Austin, or his Soviet-bloc "ad-

visers," had been prepared to "treat" with Mr. Chambers; that the Principle of Non-Intervention (a phrase as phantasmagorical as "détente") should prevail; that the invasion would be tantamount to declaring war upon the Grenadian people — that cry was all that remained.

The Chambers's Government sent messages to everybody. By the third day of the war it became evident that nobody was listening; nobody with any influence on the happenings in Grenada, anyway.

REJOICING

And so that second traumatic week drew to a close, with an air of general rejoicing beginning in the Caricom island-states (yes, including Grenada), while, here at home, Mr. Chambers twisted slowly in the wind, unable to exert the remotest influence on events happening on his doorstep, and facing an angry electorate.

Since a mid-term crisis of such magnitude could seriously damage the country (already in the grip of economic recession), and since the prospect of a sundered Caricom at this time was frankly nightmarish, it was necessary to go on hoping.

One hoped that Mr. Chambers, by means of some brilliant diplomatic coup, a kind of Muhammed Ali quickstep shuffle, might yet extricate himself from the corner he was in and command again, if not the centre of the ring, at least some manoeuvring room.

Failing that, one waited for Mr. Adams and company, now that the war was winding down, to see the political wisdom

of offering to Mr. Chambers the handshake of reconciliation.

It was in their own long-term interests to do so, since a Caricom which excluded Trinidad and Tobago would be committing itself to a number of gambles: that Reagan, or men like him, would remain in power in perpetuity in the United States (both ex-President Carter and Presidential candidate Mondale had condemned the invasion); that Michael Manley would never, ever regain power in Jamaica; that Trinidad and Tobago, thus isolated, could successfully remain non-aligned (an unlikely prospect.).

By Saturday November 5 neither

Adams nor Seaga nor any of the OECS leaders had taken any notice of Mr. Chambers (except to counter the latter's accusations with the odd rebuke).

Mr. Chambers, since his Parliamentary address, had said nothing. In an open letter to him, the first part of which was published in this newspaper on Sunday 6, the present writer tried by inference to suggest that Mr. Chambers could yet postpone having to choose between his own political survival and the welfare of the Caribbean community.

It was not a convincing suggestion, and in any case whatever weight it might have carried was more than cancelled out by the revelation, the night before, that the U.S. Congressional delegation to Grenada had

changed its mind and would no longer be meeting with Mr. Chambers. Next day, in Fyzabad, Mr. Chambers hit out.

It was not a pretty sight.

Apart from confounding the maternal bosoms of the PNM Women's League by addressing them at one point as "Gentlemen" threatening an opposition party leader (presumably Hudson-Phillips) with the attention of the National Security Ministry; and at one point affording his audience, with a reference to 'black specks,' an awful glimpse into the abyss of racial self-pity, Mr. Chambers offered two startling propositions.

The first was that since he was the elected Prime Minister, any criticism (or as he termed it, "insult") of him was an insult against the people: a construct which envisaged, by extension, the

paradox that no electorate could vote a ruling party out of power — the ultimate "insult" without insulting themselves.

The second was Mr. Chambers' very dark hint that those who disagreed with his Cabinet's position on Grenada might be doing so at the behest of "external constituencies."

Mr. Chambers was at this point not really all that far from accusing his critics of treason.

Since his critics, in this case, constituted a majority of the population, one was forced to the edge of a weird philosophical conundrum: in a democracy, could a majority of the electorate, acting in unison, be guilty of treason?

And so it went.

A SHIFT

On Monday the faces of the Caricom leaders were removed from TTT's Panorama logo. By mid-week it was possible to discern a shift in the attitude of writers of Letters to the Editor: the initial reaction of straightforward anger was being punctuated, increasingly, by expressions of self-contempt ("we deserve what we get") and hopelessness.

Also by mid-week, one noticed a change of tone in the editorials.

They were gentler; they were soothing; they were addressed, ultimately, to the Prime Minister.

One could only guess at the cruel mix of anger, sorrow, shame, compassion, calculation and civic duty that had occasioned such a shift, but there it was, they were gentling him along, like whiles nursing along a stricken whale, and it was both heartbreaking and disturbing.

Who were these people, these editors? And how had such re-

sponsibility devolved upon them? Forgetting barbs about "editorial hyperbole," for how long could a country sustain itself upon editorial rectitude?

What happens next? It is not at all clear what happens next.

The Prime Minister could resign, but one doubts that he will. ("I as Prime Minister").

The next best hope must reside with Mr. McIntyre.

Mr. McIntyre is going to have to meet with Mr. Chambers. Mr. McIntyre is going to have to announce a very important role for Mr. Chambers in the reconstruction of Grenada. Mr. McIntyre is going to have to persuade Mr. Adams to allow Mr. Chambers to send some policemen to Grenada. Not for the first time in history, the fate of nations is going to depend on such miniscule demonstrations of tact.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Mr. McIntyre did not come to Trinidad on Thursday as planned, and according to reports has not yet decided whether he will accept leadership of the Grenada Interim Government.

Trade-Ban Issue

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 14 Nov 83 p 15

[Text]

DESPITE Cabinet recent decision to lift the trade ban on Grenadian vessels in Trinidad, citizens of that island have complained that trading is still a very complicated matter since they require visas to enter this country.

Prime Minister George Chambers last month imposed a number of sanctions on trading with Grenada.

All vessels from that island were banned from using the facilities of the Caricom Jetty and under the ruling, all Grenadians wishing to enter Trinidad must now obtain visas.

Last week Cabinet lifted part of the trade ban, allowing Grenadian vessels to come alongside to trade, though still subjected to them to checks by Security, Immigration and Customs personnel.

However, this has not helped the situation much, according to Captain William Bedeau of the "Seaview", the first Grenadian vessel to come into Trinidad since last month when series of chaotic events took place on the island.

Captain Bedeau said yesterday: "Your government has lifted the trade ban, and allowed us to use one jetty. But we are not free to trade properly because we still require visas to enter the country. I don't understand why the Trinidad and Tobago Government is being so hard on Grenadians."

"Imagine we have to get visas to come here. We can come alongside at the Caricom jetty, but that isn't getting us any place, because we still need to put foot on land. But how can we do that when we have to go to Barbados first to get visas to come

here?"

Captain Bedeau, of Carriacou, who has been trading with this country since 1962, said that to obtain visas for Trinidad, Grenadians first have to apply at this country's High Commission in Barbados. But, he added: "This requires a great amount of funds, first to go to Barbados, and then to come here."

"Going to Barbados alone costs about \$400 and right now we need to trade so to rebuild the country."

Bedeau explained that the average Grenadians would probably think twice about first going to Barbados to obtain a visa.

Many Grenadians earned their livelihood through trade with Trinidad, he said.

Captain Bedeau called on the Government to reconsider the visa requirement ruling since he felt it would put a strain on trade relations between both states.

Support for Alliance Stand

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 17 Nov 83 p 20

[Text]

THE NATIONAL Alliance, through Opposition Leader Basdeo Panday, has issued a call for a return to democracy in Grenada.

Mr. Panday said: "We call for a smooth, quick, efficient return to normalcy and democratic government in Grenada."

He made the call after receiving a full report from members of the Alliance at a special meeting held in San Fernando on Monday night.

Mr. Panday, who returned home on Sunday evening from attending the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association conference in Nairobi, was brought up to date by his political colleagues on the crisis in Grenada.

He supported "wholeheartedly" the decision taken by his political colleagues on the Grenada issue.

Manning Remarks

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 22 Nov 83 p 18

[Text]

TRINIDAD and Tobago has from the beginning viewed the crisis in Grenada as one to be handled primarily within the context of Caricom.

So said Mr Patrick Manning, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, addressing the third annual convention of the San Fernando East Constituency of the People's National Movement at the Pleasantville Senior Comprehensive School last weekend.

He said that in the Prime Minister's first statement on the crisis, on October 20, 1983, he referred to his position as Chairman of Caricom. He gave prominence to moves then afoot to convene an emergency meeting of Caricom Heads of Government.

Among the decisions then announced and given immediate effect were two general items, two quarantine measures, one of which involved cessation of Caricom

facilities for goods and vessels from Grenada and a fifth item intended to boycott and isolate Grenada within Caricom.

Mr Manning said those measures were taken without prejudice to decisions that were later to be taken by Caricom Heads of Government.

He said that the issue was why the leadership of the People's National Movement and the Government and subsequently the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago, adopted the position it did?

Summarising that position, Mr Manning said: It required "resort in the first instance to efforts at a peaceful resolution of the problem" ensuring that "force should not be the first resort in respect of a sister Caricom State."

In addition, Trinidad and Tobago wished "at the resolution of the Grenad. situation should be wholly regional, that it so say, Caricom in nature."

CSO: 3298/253

NEW FOREIGN EXCHANGE APPLICATION FORM STIRS TROUBLE

Businessmen's Complaints

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 12 Nov 83 p 1

[Text] San Fernando--Business people in South Trinidad, particularly the smaller ones, yesterday expressed "horrors" in their transaction with the San Fernando Branch of the Central Bank on Coffee Street.

One woman who deals in arts and crafts said that it was more than three weeks now that she sent in her EC-0 form to be processed. She said that like many other business people whenever they went to the Bank they were being told to come back.

"The larger business people will be able to survive but the smaller ones may not be able to hold out," she lamented. She said if there was a shortage of manpower then the officers in charge should get up and speak out. "Let the Governor of the Central Bank or others in authorities know the situation in San Fernando," she said.

"How much longer are we going to tolerate this type of 'run around,'" she emphasised.

Whenever there was a crowd or a long line-up, the bank would close earlier then open later "much to the inconvenience of many people," she observed.

A check revealed that the San Fernando Branch opens for business two days a week--Wednesday and Friday. Opening hours from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Business people are calling for the opening of the bank five days a week.

GUARDIAN Criticism

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 13 Nov 83 p 6

[Editorial: "End This EC-0 Nonsense"]

[Text] It is basic logic that when faced with a problem, the sensible thing to do is to try to find a workable solution. The one thing you do not do is to come up with the sort of decision that creates an even greater problem.

But this is precisely what is now happening in this country with the utterly absurd EC-0 forms which business concerns need to have approved by the Central Bank before permission is obtained to export foreign currency.

There is nothing wrong in principle with a government wishing to protect foreign reserves in the light of threatening economic difficulty. But you do not try to keep a thief from the door by sprinkling broken glass on the steps. Not only is the thief kept out, but you are yourself trapped within, unless you don't mind badly cut soles of shoes or feet.

The system of the EC-0 forms can only be described as the latest demonstration of administrative insensitivity, and displays a total lack of knowledge of the way business operates. Government may be able to withstand delays and subsidise costs in its disastrous and expensive undertakings. Businesses do not operate that way. They have to be self sufficient, to account to shareholders.

The Government through Forbes Park could go into the potato and butter importing business, lose millions of dollars and just go to Parliament to have these losses written off. Business concerns can count on no such good fortune.

From the introduction of the EC-0 forms the business community, with its wide experience in these matters, warned that the system would not work. Businessmen warned that it would impose considerable hardship, frustration and an utter waste of time, in addition to creating senseless delay

in ordering and clearing goods. They warned that in the long run would have the most drastic effect on trade and on the economy.

Nobody listened so what do we have today? An incredibly snarled up system that has effectively crippled a great deal of the Christmas trade, to begin with. Could this have been the government's real intention?

If that was the intention it has worked admirably. But all the small businesses who have been the first to feel the effect, will know where to attach blame for the difficulties that have befallen their enterprises. And the taxpayer, who will also have to feel the pinch by way of increased costs, will also know who to blame.

On Friday last one businessman commented that on the one hand the Government appeared to be trying to lower the cost of living, but on the other hand the Central Bank, carrying out government's policies was defeating the purpose and indeed causing the cost of living to rise. We agree. In other words, to cure one problem, we have created another much, much worse than the first.

It is high time that government realises that this nonsense called the EC-0 system is not working. It is a joke, as sick as the one made by a former Attorney-General who said that no one over 75 would be allowed to drive. It is time the Government stopped laughing and come up with an alternative, and immediately.

Admitting an error is a highly honourable thing to do. In fact it could even be a "principled" thing to do.

Effect on Imports

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 14 Nov 83 p 1

[Text.]

MR IAN GILL, Chairman of the Food Distributors Association (FDA), has forecast severe shortages of essential commodities and drugs in Trinidad and Tobago, resulting from the new EC-0 system introduced by the Central Bank.

He made this forecast in a Press release on behalf of the country's major food distributors of both local and imported items

Mr Gill said there would be a 'bleak situation' unless the Central Bank took immediate and positive steps to expedite EC-O forms for goods currently on order, but not shipped.

Senator Anthony Jacelon, Minister in the Ministry of Finance, is due to hold talks today with business representatives on the new EC-O system, amid mounting complaints over delays in getting approval for release of foreign exchange to cover imports.

The FDA Chairman said there had been only a trickle of approved EC-O forms returned to importers, and these related generally to intransit goods or goods on the docks or at the airport at October 7, for which, he said, priority understandably must be given.

NO NEW ORDERS

However, for about five weeks, little or no new orders for ongoing stocks had been placed with overseas suppliers, due to the Central Bank's new regulations.

"Given the extensive lead time between despatch of order, order acknowledgement, preparation and shipping and the customary higher level of purchasing in the last quarter of the calendar year, one can understand the gravity of the situation," the FDA Chairman noted.

He cited the example of meat, 90 per cent of the country's imported requirements, originating in New Zealand or Australia. Mr Gill said ships were infrequent, sailing time was five weeks, and

lead time between order despatch and receipt in Trinidad could be more than eight weeks.

Mr. Gill recommended that all price-controlled items, drugs and raw materials for locally-manufactured food items be granted a moratorium for a minimum of three months, until effective steps had been taken to streamline the operations of the EC-O system, and to allow for the processing of applications within a reasonable and specific agreed time frame.

The FDA sought a meeting with the Deputy Governor of the Central Bank by hand-delivered letter on October 12.

"Unfortunately, at the time of writing, we have not had the courtesy of a reply," Mr Gill said, in a release during the weekend.

The FDA spokesman said the combined experiences of the association would afford an invaluable input in discussions. They would help prevent unnecessary delay in food distribution to the population and help alleviate problems of black marketing, hoarding and panic buying, which he said had already begun and would grow.

Jacelon 'Sabotage' Charge

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 15 Nov 83 p 1

[Article by Norris Solomon]

[Text]

RESISTANCE and sabotage on the part of the public have highlighted the shortcomings of the process for clearing of cargo involving the use of the EC-O forms.

This was pointed out by Senator Anthony Jacelon, Minister in the Ministry of Finance, at a meeting with members of business and government organisations at the Ministry of Finance, Trinidad House, Port of Spain, yesterday.

The meeting, which was held at the request of Prime Minister George Chambers, was to discuss ways and means of streamlining and expediting the processing of the forms.

With the Minister were Senator Desmond Carrey, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Mr. Kenny Mohamed, Comptroller of Customs, Dr. Earle Hobb, Deputy Governor of the Central Bank, Senator Muriel

Green, Minister of Information, and other senior government officials.

Business organisations attending were the Trinidad and Tobago Businessmen's Association, the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce, the South Trinidad Chamber of Industry and Commerce, the Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers Association.

Also attending was Dr Ralph Henry, Chairman of the National Productivity Council.

The participants plan to meet again on Thursday at 2 p.m.

Yesterday's meeting lasted almost three hours and according to Senator Jacelon, the organisations committed themselves to try to solve the problems and getting the system working.

Basically, the businessmen complained that the forms were not getting through fast enough.

It is understood that the Central Bank is examining the possibility of changing the forms to make the instructions clearer.

When the organisations meet again on Thursday a draft of the changed form will be presented for the business organisations to look at and make suggestions.

Opening the conference yesterday Senator Jacelon said:

The Government cannot and will not allow the nation's foreign reserves to be frittered away like this. We have been calling on the population for voluntary restraint since 1982 but these pleas appear to have fallen on deaf ears and therefore the foreign exchange reserves of the country will have to be rationed in the short,

medium and long term interests of the country and of its citizens.

"I have no doubt in my own mind that there are rough edges and inadequacies in the present EC-0 procedure, but this has always been anticipated and it has always been the Central Bank's intention to modify and amend the system, always bearing in mind the parameters which I have just enumerated so that the system can become fully and efficiently operated by January 1, 1984.

"Unfortunately, because of resistance and in some cases what can only be described as sabotage on the

part of the public, the shortcomings of the system have been highlighted a lot earlier than anticipated and magnified beyond reality.

"It is for this reason that I have called you here this morning to deal with the accelerated and accentuated problems.

"Town has been saying and it now seems that town is right that certain persons will bring the system to its knees by creating shortages in certain areas.

"This is just one of the examples of the problem that the system has had to deal with. There was also a slowness on the part of the public to start processing the forms at the onset of the system probably due to the belief that this would cause Government to have to abandon the system.

MASSIVE BUILD-UP

"But whatever the reason for this slow reaction it has caused a massive build-up of backlog to the extent that the staff of the Central Bank has been processing over 3,000 forms a day whereas at present the average inflow of forms is approximately 2,500, but even this excess of processing over inflow has not been able to deal effectively with the backlog."

Senator Jacelon claimed that there has also been quite a large number of fraudulent entries, "fraudulent in the sense of backdating of forms or inserting the wrong information and this also causes backups and jams in the system because we have to deal more carefully with the forms when such incidents occur.

"The last but biggest problem that we need to deal with is the unnecessary proliferation of forms either through ignorance or design. For example, there is one particular business which I have looked at where in a period of one fortnight over 100 forms were submitted.

"This is typical of the problems that are being created by the public either unwittingly or intentionally and whatever streamlining or modification we may discuss this morning will prove useless unless the public at large are committed to making the system work.

Threat to Credit Rating

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 16 Nov 83 p 22

[Text]

THE TRINIDAD and Tobago Manufacturers Association on Monday told Senator Anthony Jacelon that the credit worthiness of the country would be affected by the delay of goods caused by the EC-O forms.

The group was among those which met with Senator Jacelon in his capacity as the Minister in the Ministry of Finance at the Riverside Plaza to discuss the implications of the recently introduced EC-O forms.

According to Mr. Olive Teelucksingh, of the TTMA, the delays by the Central Bank in the processing of the forms is causing the manufacturers to have to pay increased rent on their goods.

He told the Minister and the Central Bank team that it seemed that the Central Bank was not fully understanding of the system and that the process clerks were not adhering to the guidelines set by the Bank.

Also present at the meeting were members of the Trinidad and Tobago Businessmen's Association represented by its President, Mr. Bolan Amar.

Mr. Amar told the meeting that while he has always supported the concept of preserving our foreign exchange, there was a lot to be desired in the time it is taking to get the EC-O forms approved. He outlined a system which the TTMA feels would help to increase the quantity of forms being approved per day.

They suggest that after the form has been filled out and presented with all the necessary documents, the unpaper should get a stamped

copy stating that it has been lodged while he retain a copy of the document. And a rotation number to be placed on both copies to make for easy identification when the person returns.

PRIORITY

After the prescribed time has elapsed and the form not returned the copy would be proof of submission and priority should be given for the approval of another set of documents within the same day of submission.

The Central Bank should start to approve forms based on the sequential number so that the customer would be given his turn because of the numbering system. The Bank would then know daily how many forms had been submitted and would decide on a daily basis the manpower needed to get the job done.

The TTMA suggests that to reduce the quantity of applications submitted, the Bank should create a fly sheet where there are more than one BTN number on a particular invoice for goods to be imported.

"In this case only," says the Association, "the EC-O forms will be made up for the full value and the fly sheet will have the break down of all the item numbers, bringing the invoice back to this said value and only one approval will be required rather than ten or twenty as at the present time."

The problems Mr. Amar listed were that it took too long to get the form approved, no guarantee that it was submitted, no return of the forms submitted to clear the shipment, and no guarantee that if a form was submitted first that its approval would come first.

Chamber of Commerce Suggestions

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 17 Nov 83 p 1

[Text] Representatives of the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce will meet the Minister in the Ministry of Finance, Senator Anthony Jacelon, at his office at 2 p.m. today.

The meeting follows previous meetings held between the two parties to discuss the problems created by the introduction of the EC-0 system for processing applications for foreign exchange.

In a letter sent to the Finance Minister yesterday for his consideration before the meeting, the Chamber has outlined a number of recommendations that could help ease the backlog of EC-0 forms and the effects that will result from the present situation if it continues.

The Chamber referred to serious disruption of business in the country caused by the introduction of the EC-0 forms requiring approval for the release of funds prior to importation, and said it submitted recommendations with a view to removing expeditiously the massive backlog of outstanding EC-0 forms.

The Chamber recommended:

(1) That the need for the submission of EC-0 forms be removed with respect to the following:

- (a) All goods that were in the country on or before the 7th October, 1983;
- (b) All goods that were shipped on or before the above date;
- (c) All confirmed orders that were placed before 7th October, 1983, but were not shipped or paid for by that date.

(2) That effective immediately, and for a limited period of approximately 3-6 months, the necessity for submitting EC-0 forms to obtain foreign exchange for the importation of essential items as enumerated below in paragraph 3, items (a) to (d), be relaxed. This will greatly assist in removing the backlog of unapproved applications. In addition, it will provide the authorities with a breathing spell in which to organise matters.

(3) That separate desks be established at the Exchange Control Division of the Central Bank to deal specifically with EC-0 forms submitted for:

- (a) Foods and drugs;
- (b) Raw materials for manufacturing (including all spare and machine parts);
- (c) Materials for the construction industry;

(d) Caricom; (e) other, and be placed in appropriate boxes so designated.

The Chamber recommended that immediate steps be taken to increase the number of staff allowed to deal with processing EC-0 forms. It suggested that experienced, trained, and qualified staff be seconded from the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Affairs in consultation with that ministry to augment the efforts of personnel at the Central Bank; and that as a temporary measure, more senior officers of the Central Bank be made available to give advice to the public.

Jacelon Speech to Chamber

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 18 Nov 83 p 1

[Article by Ariti Jankie]

[Text] San Fernando, Wed--Senator Anthony Jacelon, Minister in the Ministry of Finance, in a bid to mollify businessmen of San Fernando, said he planned to retire from Government office and return to mundane living.

The Minister was speaking at a meeting of the South Trinidad Chamber of Industry and Commerce and made the statement during question time.

He said he understood the problems faced by the businessmen and appealed to them to think constructively.

"I myself plan to return to mundane living", he added.

But there was applause following a comment by Mr. Walter Annamunthodo that "the sooner you do, the better".

The businessmen spoke of frustrations in the business sector now compounded by the introduction of the EC-0 system, in an evening of heavy "jamming" for the Government.

Mr. Johnny Rooks spoke of the delay in the reduction of taxes in the petroleum industry which sky-rocketed during boom years. He felt that government should be more considerate of the businessmen in the oil industry.

Another member noted that over 8,000 workers have been retrenched in the oil industries recently. Recession and retrenchment, he said, leave businessmen with less machinery, less manpower and less money to operate.

The Minister was asked how many workers the Government proposed to retrench.

The Southern businessmen highlighted problems encountered at public services offices, informing the Minister that the plans by the Government might be well-intentioned and brilliant, but it was the people who were placed in a position to implement such plans who frustrate the operations.

One of the Chamber members spoke of an occasion when he waited four hours to see a senior official in a government department. He said that after the four-hour period had elapsed a clerk announced that the official would not be seeing any other persons for that day.

He said that while he waited in the company of others, a clerk came out in the same "don't-care-a-damn" manner to inform those waiting that the official was not working that day.

Serious Problem

Senator Jacelon told the businessmen that inefficiency in the public sector was a serious problem. He said that the problems could not be solved given the present rules and regulations but they had to be solved if the country was to survive.

The Minister was told that harsh decisions had to be taken about the public services. If disciplinary measures were slow, the Government should take measures to correct it, otherwise conditions would deteriorate and lead to chaos.

The meeting heard that there was a tremendous export market in Guyana and a call was made for a buffer of exchange between Trinidad and Guyana.

Senator Jacelon, in his reply, said that trade with Guyana in this respect would not work because Guyana did not have the foreign exchange to facilitate trade.

He added that most of the Caricom countries would have collapsed if Trinidad and Tobago did not boost their economy over the past ten years.

Criticism of EC-0 System

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 18 Nov 83 p 1

[Article by Ariti Jankie]

[Text] San Fernando, Wed--Adoption of the EC-0 system in Trinidad and Tobago "is borrowing a problem which has caused havoc before ending in total failure in Nigeria."

Introduction of the system by the Government was described as a "totally irresponsible act." These were among sentiments expressed by Southern businessmen at the first meeting of the South Chamber of Industry and Commerce for the new term today.

The meeting was chaired by Chamber President Dean Saidwan at Cross Crossing, San Fernando, this evening. Comments followed an address on the state of business by Senator Anthony Jacelon, Minister in the Ministry of Finance.

Mr. Merlin Samlalsingh, director of Southern Wholesale Stores of Marabella, told the meeting of the "run-around and frustrations" he experienced since the introduction of the EC-0 system.

He said that on October 26, EC-0 forms were submitted by his company for goods due to arrive on November 3, but six days later, on November 9, the forms were returned and then submitted on November 10 to the Ministry of Industry and Commerce for approval.

Mr. Samlalsingh said that on November 14, he received the forms with a query that the signature on the EC-0 forms must be verified at the Central Bank, Port-of-Spain.

He said that since then three forms were also returned to the company with the same note for verification.

He asked the Minister: "How soon will Central Bank be operating five days a week in San Fernando to help the businessmen of the industrial capital?"

He called for senior officials to be based in San Fernando in order to approve forms and reduce the enormous time spent in journeys to and from Port-of-Spain.

'Additional Windows'

Senator Jacelon, responding, said that the establishment of Central Bank services for five days a week in San Fernando could be entertained in the foreseeable future. He added, amidst boos and heckles from the Southern businessmen, that from the budget of the Central Bank he could not foresee an increase in services in the near future.

He said that the problems imposed by the EC-0 system would be discussed with a view to making it operational and, with regard to San Fernando, he felt that "additional windows can be established to improve the situation."

Mr. Bury Clifford observed that the Minister's apparel showed 17 customs items and he wanted to know "whether 17 EC-0 forms are required to be filled by businessmen to meet the fashion needs of the Minister in one day."

Another Chamber member told the Minister that consideration must be given to businessmen "who are sometimes in urgent need of raw materials."

He said: "It is highly inconsiderate and decidedly stupid of the Government to treat an importer of garlic bread in the same manner as the businessman."

To this, Senator Jacelon stated that "chapters" of the EC-0 system will facilitate the businessmen and make provision for imported materials and commodities needed in categories of manufacture and private consumption.

Central Bank Action

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 22 Nov 83 p 1

[Text] The Central Bank expects that the backlog of approved EC-0 application forms for foreign exchange will be cleared up by Monday.

It has also proposed a revision of the form which would incorporate certain suggestions made by the business community, according to a release from the bank yesterday afternoon.

In its release, the bank confirmed that its representatives had met with various business organisations at the Ministry of Finance and Planning on Thursday to continue discussion on certain issues arising in respect of the administration of the new exchange control procedures for visible imports.

The meeting was chaired by Senator Anthony Jacelon, acting Minister of Finance and Planning.

According to the release, the bank indicated that it had intensified efforts to accelerate the processing of EC-0 applications and that it expected the backlog of approved forms up to the date of the meeting to be cleared by Monday, with the exception of applications for projected imports for 1984 which would be processed speedily thereafter.

The release added that the bank also presented for consideration of the meeting a proposed revision of the EC-0 form which generally was accepted and the bank has since undertaken to incorporate certain suggestions made at the meeting.

In another release yesterday the Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers' Association (TTMA) outlined its proposals presented at the meeting.

These included that manufacturers be allowed to apply for foreign currency allocation on a single form with the description "raw materials for use in the manufacture of..." which application to contain all information as presently required by the EC-0 form except for CCCN numbers.

The TTMA argued that in this way manufacturers would have an annual foreign currency, budget for raw material and its proposal would reduce the workload of the Central Bank allowing it (the bank) more time for "dealing with sensitive imports."

Full Support

The manufacturers association also proposed that manufacturers report to the Central Bank on a monthly basis, all imports of raw material, machinery spares and product spares that occurred in the previous month.

It said this monthly reporting could be done by CCCN numbers to facilitate the Central Bank's data collection and these reports could be verified by

the "Approved Undertakings" branch of Customs as presently pertains for the importation of duty-free raw material.

The association further suggested that this same system be initiated for machinery spares and product spares used in manufacturing plants.

In its release the TTMA urged the Finance Minister and the Central Bank to adopt its recommendations as it feels that its proposed system would serve both the manufacturing sector and the Central Bank.

The association also endorsed the implementation of the EC-0 procedures seeing it as "one of the many hard economic realities that our country will have to face in the post-oil period of the 1980's."

The TTMA said it "fully supports the move by the Central Bank to conserve the foreign exchange reserves of Trinidad and Tobago."

In its release, the Central Bank indicated that it was preparing groupings at chapter heading level for certain classes of goods where this would not compromise the objectives of the procedures while at the same time facilitating importers of such goods.

The meeting between the business sector and the Central Bank representatives will reconvene on Thursday, said the release.

CSO: 3298/254

MOHAMMED PRAISES PNM FOR KEEPING COUNTRY 'STABLE'

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 21 Nov 83 p 1

[Text] San Fernando--Acting Prime Minister Kamaluddin Mohammed has described Trinidad and Tobago as "one of the most stable countries in the world."

Speaking at the annual conference of the San Fernando East Constituency of the People's National Movement (PNM), Mr. Mohammed, referring to what he described as the Government side, told party supporters:

"There is no doubt about it that your Government has been trying extremely hard to hold the nation together.

"And we think we have succeeded in keeping this multi-racial multi-religious community as stable as any other country in the world."

The audience of party supporters included some members of the present Cabinet, as well as former Cabinet member and Ambassador, Mr. Gerard Montano.

Mr. Mohammed cited his long experience in politics. Having been in politics for a long time, he said, and having visited most of the nations of the world--developed and under-developed--he noted that Trinidad and Tobago was blessed with several things.

The Only Party

He pinpointed these as good weather, the lack of crisis like earthquakes, hurricanes and typhoons. And in addition, "we are blessed with a most stable Government that you can find in any part of the world."

This stability, he said, could be compared with what existed in some of the developed countries. But he advised: "We can keep that stability if only you keep the PNM in power."

He said that it was only when the Grenada problem arose that even people who were opposed to the PNM came out and said that the PNM was the only party to keep the country together.

Mr. Mohammed referred to a report on the State-owned Trinidad and Tobago Television concerning the State funeral for Sir Solomon Hochoy.

He said the report on Panorama News gave about 20 seconds to the death of Sir Solomon then gave credence to some report from an American about the Grenada situation.

The acting Prime Minister said Panorama gave prominence to a critical report by some private economist on Government's economic development "but tucked away an important occasion like that (Sir Solomon's death) at the end of the news bulletin."

CSO: 3298/255

FAVORABLE TRADE BALANCE OF OVER \$2 BILLION NOTED FOR 1980

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 16 Nov 83 p 4

[Text] During 1980, Trinidad and Tobago imported goods worth \$7,665 million which was \$2,598 million more than it imported in 1979.

Exports in that year amounted to \$9,804 million which again reflected an increase of \$3,539 million than was exported the previous year.

These figures were obtained from the 1980 Annual Overseas Trade Report just released by the Central Statistical Office (CSO) of the Ministry of Finance and Planning.

According to the export and import figures, the country therefore, recorded a favourable balance of visible trade amounting to \$2,139 million in 1980 which was compared to the \$1,198 million recorded as the balance for 1979.

The CSO release said that during the year under review, the principal commodity imported was crude and partly refined petroleum valued at \$2,869 million.

This represented an increase of 10.2 per cent from \$1,521 million, the import value of this item in 1979, said the release.

Principal Items

Other major items imported were: mining, construction and other industrial machinery valued at \$758 million; road and motor vehicles and parts at \$407 million; electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances at \$267 million and power generating machinery at \$117 million.

Under the standard international trade classification, food and live animals imported amounted to \$709 million.

The principal items of food imported during the year were rice \$37 million, unmilled wheat \$61 million, milk, condensed or otherwise preserved \$70 million and meat and meat preparations \$107 million.

Of the \$9,735 million worth of domestic exports in 1980, 40.4 per cent represented crude and partly refined petroleum and 52.6 per cent petroleum products.

Other major exports of domestic produce were: sugar, refined and unrefined \$67 million, tar oils and other crude chemicals \$87 million, manufactured fertilisers \$30 million and ammonia \$95 million.

The CSO release also pointed out that the total value of goods re-exported during 1980 was \$69 million of which \$17 million comprised mining, construction and other industrial machinery.

According to the overseas trade report, the country's principal sources of import were Saudi Arabia \$2,316 million, United States of America \$2,028 million, United Kingdom \$776 million, Japan \$509 million, Indonesia \$372 million and Canada \$300 million.

Of its export, the country sent \$5,483 million worth of goods to the United States of America of which 97 per cent represented mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials.

Other principal export markets were: the Netherlands \$604 million, Puerto Rico \$393 million, Suriname \$337 million, Guyana \$218 million and Barbados \$165 million.

Exports to ships/aircraft, stores and bunker amounted to \$448 million.

The report further noted that the value of imports from Caricom countries was \$268 million for 1980 and total exports amounted to \$738 million.

Corresponding figures for 1979 were: imports \$231 million and total exports \$478 million.

Including petroleum, imports from Caricom countries amounted to \$267 million and total exports to \$204 million during 1980, said the report.

CSO: 3298/255

JACELON RECOMMENDS ADJUSTMENTS FOR ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 21 Nov 83 p 20

[Text] Senator Anthony Jacelon, Minister in the Ministry of Finance, has recommended that the public sector pursue a programme of fiscal adjustment to avoid financial difficulties experienced by developing countries.

Speaking at a meeting of the South Trinidad Chamber of Industry and Commerce on Thursday last, Senator Jacelon said that unless this was done, "we may find ourselves within the arms of a major international financial institution whose prescriptions are likely to be applied with little understanding of and sensitivity to our domestic social and political circumstances."

He added: "Recent experiences of some of the countries within the region bear adequate testimony to this."

He said that the Government was unlikely to be in a position to stimulate the growth of the non-oil sectors of the economy to the extent that it did over the years.

Senator Jacelon spoke of the implications of the loss of foreign reserves in recent times.

He told southern businessmen that for the first time since 1973, between January and September this year, foreign reserves declined by approximately 18 per cent (\$1,215 million).

Conserve

He said that every effort must be made to conserve and utilise efficiently the foreign exchange surpluses accumulated over the past nine years. The Minister felt that there was need to develop with utmost urgency, alternative sources of foreign exchange.

He said that despite the fact that the rate of growth of the economy "has slowed progressively since 1981, the rate of consumption of foreign exchange has not." For the period January to September this year, net sales of foreign exchange amounted to \$3,882 million, 15 per cent higher than for the corresponding period last year.

The small economy was reducing its domestic currency balances in order to require foreign exchange to increase the purchase of imported foods and services.

"At this rate of outflow, our foreign exchange reserves would be virtually exhausted within two years," he said.

The Minister told the businessmen that the slowdown in the economy was not necessarily a bad thing. The high rate of growth enjoyed in the boom years generated distortions and created problems.

He gave as an example wage settlements which he said were clearly too high and were now unsustainable in certain sectors and industries.

He noted that there was too rapid an escalation of prices particularly in real estate and a decline in agricultural production leading to a rapid growth of food imports in excess of \$900 million last year.

He said that the performance of the manufacturing sector was uneven due to the shrinking of the Caricom market consequent to the balance of payments difficulties in the countries and partly because of other domestic factors including low productivity in relation to wages.

He said that there was a deterioration in work attitudes and a "get rich quick" psychology on the part of investors. Both found roots in the easy availability of money within the financial system.

OS01 1298/255

CONTAINERS Clogging PORT, PRESENT VALUABLE SPACE

Port of Spain: TRINIDAD GARDIAN in English 11 Nov 83 p 1

[Article by John East]

[Text]

THERE are some 100 laden containers on the Port-of-Spain docks waiting to be claimed by various consignees. One of them has been there since as 1977.

Port Authority Chairman Eustace Bernard is anxious to have these containers removed because they are occupying valuable space.

As a result, he hinted that arrangements were being made to have the contents of these containers sold as is, where is. But the Customs, he explained, would have to grant permission to have them removed, and persons buying their contents might have to post a bond.

The port's owners of the containers, according to Mr. Bernard, have been writing the Port Authority asking that something be done to have the containers emptied and be turned to their use.

There was also another complaint by port officials — the very people in commerce and shipping who decry congestion on the port were not usually anxious to ship the empty containers back.

Among the 100 containers are 25, each 40 feet long, consigned to the Central Racing Complex.

These containers, said to contain light poles and electrical fittings, have been on the port since January 20, 1982.

Since December 21, 1982, 13 containers, each 35 feet long, were brought to the port for the Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA), and they are still there.

1977 SUGAR

There are also two containers with sugar consigned to Caroni

Limited. One reached the port on October 10, 1977 — more than six years ago; and the other, on September 20, 1979 — more than four years ago.

There are two others consigned to National Development which were brought to the port in April 1982, as well as two others with containers for packaging that came in October 19, 1982, consigned to National Fisheries.

Mr. Bernard, emphasising the need for space at the port, said that Trinidad and Tobago imported more than twice the cargo — Jamaica excepted — of all the other Caribbean countries combined.

In 1979, imported cargo amounted to 900,000 tons. In 1982, the total jumped to 1,773,431 tons and for the first eight-month period this year — up to August, total imported cargo handled on the docks was 1,226,631 tons.

Most of the cargo imported is containerised.

In 1982, according to the records, the port handled 69,875 containers, and for the first eight months of 1983, the figure is 47,559.

In the face of the increasing cargo and container movements, the port is cramped with lumber.

The Authority's engineers advised in 1980 that the two lumber berths at Chaguaramas were collapsing, and it was not economical to attempt to have them repaired.

PIER COLLAPSES

In fact Pier One collapsed completely in 1981, while Pier Two later buckled in the centre.

In providing an alternative to the closure of the Chaguaramas berths, the Government spent \$27 million to dredge, widen and deepen the Sea Lots channel and basin.

The area, now 21 feet deep, will permit all lumber boats to offload at Sea Lots. But Mr. Bernard emphasised: "We now need money to pile the whole sea front, which would be able to accommodate about five ships, and we are now seeking that money."

He declared: "With the best will in the world, Sea Lots will not be available for use under two years."

In the meantime, to add further congestion to the port, the lumber activities at Chaguaramas have been transferred to Port-of-Spain.

He said the Port Authority spent almost \$2 million to prepare an area on the Port-of-Spain docks to store lumber, "but in order for the ships to discharge the lumber they must occupy a berth."

"So those ships are adding further to the congestion already on the port as far as berthing space is concerned," he said.

With respect to cargo like sugar, rice, equipment for WASA and medical supplies, Mr. Bernard said the Port Authority usually received requests, sometimes from the Executive of the Statutory Boards, to give the ships bringing in these items priority berthing. They usually stated that these items were in short supply and getting them in was critical.

REAL DECLINE IN AGRICULTURE NOTED; OTHER SECTORS ADVANCE

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 22 Nov 83 p 4

[Text]

THE STRUCTURAL changes in the economy for the period 1974-1982 showed that the major negative development was the real decline in agriculture. On the positive side, all other sectors registered high rates of growth with the major structural change being the weakening of the petroleum sector and the increasing significance of the Government sector.

These comments were contained in a summary of the economic performance of Trinidad and Tobago in the period under review which constituted part of a paper presented by Mr. Leslie Scotland, Corporate Manager in charge of Economic research and Marketing at the Royal Bank of Trinidad and Tobago Limited, at the first annual conference on the local economy held at the Holiday Inn last week.

In summarising the country's economic performance, Mr. Scotland noted that the petroleum sector "is still the engine of economic growth, although admittedly a faltering engine."

He also noted that the increased importance of the Government sector was also dependent on developments in the petroleum sector through the mechanism of tax revenues.

"These revenues in turn finance imports and consumption at the expense of production; the performance of the petroleum sector is therefore the major determinant of economic growth as a whole," said Mr. Scotland.

Continuing his address to the

gathering of economists from throughout the country and from some Caribbean islands, Mr. Scotland further said that no other sector currently had either the dynamism or the size to replace the petroleum sector's leading role in the economy.

"As a result the economy is now more exposed to the instability of external market forces in the petroleum industry," said Mr. Scotland.

He added: "At this point, structurally, only positive market forces could arrest certain decline in economic growth."

"The petroleum windfall has resulted in a weaker non-oil sector incapable of providing sustained economic growth."

Pointing out that the labour market, the external sector and the monetary sector would be dealt with elsewhere at the conference in terms of the impact of the foregoing structural changes, Mr. Scotland said nevertheless, that the thrust to diversify the economy was an important imperative of economic management in the interest of economic growth and stability.

TOURISM PROBLEMS IN TOBAGO BLAMED ON HIGH PRICES

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 18 Nov 83 p 1

[Article by Suzanne Morris]

[Text]

HIGH prices charged by Tobago hoteliers is one of the factors pinpointed by the Trinidad and Tobago Tourist Board that may be responsible for problems now being experienced in the tourist industry there.

For the island, which has tourism as its main source of revenue, this can be very bad news.

But according to figures compiled by the Tourist Board, the average hotel occupancy rate for the sister isle was a mere 40.9 per cent. The highest occupancy percentage was recorded in February when it was 56.4 per cent.

According to the Board's report, a number of factors are responsible for the poor performance and heading the list is the world economic recession which may have caused people to be more cautious of travelling and spending because of the unstable economic environment.

Another major problem may be the closure of some tour operators especially in Canada which traditionally has been a stronghold for this

country.

The lack of proper facilities on the island may be another problem.

The report explains it in this way: "Whilst Tobago is beautiful, at present it is unable to satisfy fully the mix of attraction necessary to induce the visitor to compete effectively with other islands."

Coupled with this is the fact that the hotels there cater to mainly the middle and upper end market and would not benefit travellers who are in the lower end.

LOCAL SUPPORT

However, in recent times there has been a substantial increase in lower end travellers to tourist destinations and this may represent a potential loss to hoteliers.

It is believed that the only means of overcoming the problem is by reviewing the situation in a bid to reverse the present trend.

In Trinidad the industry has been performing satisfactorily, but a high proportion of the occupancy levels of hotels is made up of locals. This is due mainly to the fact that locals

stay overnight in hotels when they have to conduct business matters in the city.

The report shows that the average occupancy rate for the first six months of the year was 63.8 per cent with the highest being recorded again in February with 70.7 per cent.

Figures quoted in the board's report were gathered from data supplied by ten hotels in the country. Among them are the main hotels and together they account for 1,112 rooms out of the total 1,749 hotel rooms available in this country.

The hotels referred to are the Trinidad Hilton (442 rooms); Holiday Inn (253 rooms); Mt. Irvine Bay Hotel (110 rooms); Crown Reef Hotel (115 rooms); Chaconia Inn (50 rooms); Hotel Normandie (48 rooms); Farrel House (40 rooms); Cocorico Inn (24 rooms); Errol J. Lau (18 rooms); and the Hillcrest Haven Guesthouse (12 rooms).

Details of the analysis for each of the first six months show that in January overall hotel room occupancy was 59.4 per cent.

BRIEFS

PANDAY DENIALS--San Fernando--Basdeo Panday, Leader of the Opposition, who has just returned from the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Kenya, yesterday denied he ever told Prime Minister George Chambers that the accommodation has been "irretrievably broken up." Mr Panday, who met members of the National Alliance at his home at Phillipine, San Fernando, on Monday night, said that he was told at the meeting about Mr Chambers's statement. It was reported yesterday that at the Alliance meeting Mr Panday was told when Prime Minister Chambers addressed the annual conference of the PNM Women's League at Fyzabad he referred to the meetings being held at the Organisation of National Reconstruction (ONR) on the Grenada issue, remarking that the political leader of the ONR had become "PNM's greatest asset." He stated, however, that the ONR leader's sentiments should be treated "as a national security matter." In that vein, he told the assembly that Mr Panday told his central executive that the "marriage is irretrievably broken up. That is a fact." [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 16 Nov 83 p 7] Rep. Basdeo Panday, (Couva North) leader of the Opposition, has denied "rather emphatically" that he either told Prime Minister George Chambers or the Central Executive of his party or the Alliance that "the marriage is irretrievably broken up." Mr. Chambers, in delivering the future address at the Women's League conference, said "Mr. Panday told his central executive that the marriage is irretrievably broken up. That is a fact." Said Mr. Panday when asked to clear up the issue: "I said no such thing either to Mr. Chambers or the Central Executive. I repeat. I really must wonder how many lies the Prime Minister has told the country in order to hold on to a job for which, obviously, he is totally inadequate." [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 18 Nov 83 p 7]

ONR ANNUAL MEETING--Plans for the fourth national annual conference of the Organisation for National Reconstruction (ONR) will be discussed at a meeting of the National Committee scheduled for 10 a.m. today at the party's headquarters, 10 Albion Street, Port-of-Spain. The Committee is also expected to approve rules and regulations for the new ONR Constitution which governs the national annual conference, scheduled to take place on November 26 and 27 at the Mount Hope Junior Secondary School. ONR's Political Leader, Mr. Karl Hudson-Phillips, will preside over a special meeting of the parliamentary arm on November 16 from 7.30 p.m. at ONR headquarters. A simultaneous meeting of the National Conference Planning

Committee meets November 16 at 7.30 p.m. at Albion Street. National officers for the 1983-84 term will be elected at the Mt. Hope conference.
[Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 12 Nov 83 p 3]

VIOLENCE AT TELCO--Violence erupted outside of the Telephone Company's offices on Abercromby Street yesterday as some 150 angry workers downed tools and took to the picket line to protest the non-payment of subsistence allowances. Mr. Richard Jackman, General Manager, Technical Operations, was reportedly struck on the head when he went out to talk to the workers and, according to Telco's Public Relations Manager, Mr. Neil Giuseppi, two other management personnel were struck by the workers. But this was denied by the Secretary General of the Communications Workers Union, Ian Clarke, who said he could not confirm that Mr. Jackman was hit but that both men mentioned by Giuseppi were in another Telco building at the time of picketing action. The situation began at about mid-day yesterday when workers, expecting to be paid, were told that this was not possible. The workers, mainly from the Construction Branch at Laventille, stopped work and headed for the Abercromby Street offices of the company. By about 1.30 p.m. the workers moved into the building and occupied the offices while the union president and secretary tried to arrange a meeting with Dr. Neilson Mackay, Executive Director. The meeting was arranged and the matter was settled by 3 p.m. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 12 Nov 83 p 1]

CONCERN OVER CRIME--Businessmen are concerned over the rise in crimes in Central Trinidad. According to Mr Sookraj Dass, secretary of Chaguana's Businessmen's Association, the continuous rise in robberies, break-ins and hold-ups pose a great threat. "We are therefore, asking for more police protection and as well proper street-lighting facilities." He said that the association had despatched letters to the Commissioner of Police and the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission "(TTEC)" asking of urgent remedial actions in these spheres of concerns. Mr Dass felt that at this Christmas period, they should not have to ask for increased police protection. "It should have come from the initiatives of the Police Service," he stated. He also pointed out that for several years now, the greater part of the Chaguana's Main Road, the hub of the commercial sector, has been without an efficient electricity service. Mr Dass added: "We want both the police and (TTEC) to take a very serious view of these problems because we consider the proper functioning of them as essential ingredients to help to ward off crimes." "People have complained to businessmen that they fear for the safety," he said. Mr Dass added that his association planned a constant vigil on the situation to make sure its requests are answered.
[Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 16 Nov 83 p 6]

FARMERS' PROTEST--Farmers will highlight their problems today by staging a picket demonstration outside the offices of the Ministry of Agriculture at 10 a.m. Mr. Poolchan Sookdeo, chairman of the Trinidad and Tobago Farmers Association, said his organisation was spearheading the demonstration and all farmers and farmers organisations had been invited to participate. Mr. Sookdeo said that a delegation from the association was due to meet the Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Food Production, Mr. Kamaluddin Mohammed. "The association feels that the Government's policy continues

to destroy and ruin many small and poor farmers who are the main producers of food for this nation," he declared. Among the problems to be highlighted by the demonstration are farmers' access to land, marketing and flooding. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 16 Nov 83 p 6]

INCREASE IN MANUFACTURING--Domestic manufacturing sector excluding oil and sugar increased its output from January to March 1983. According to the Central Statistical Office in its latest "Indices of Domestic Production and Industrial Sales," the all-industry index of domestic production rose from 137.3 to 139.6, reflecting an increase of 1.7 per cent between the 4th quarter of 1982 and the first quarter of 1983. Substantial increases in industrial production were recorded in industrial gases and paints (92.5 per cent); metal furniture (75.0 per cent); dairy products (69.6 per cent) and sawmills, 62.2 per cent. Most significant declines in output were noted in furniture/mattresses (68.4 per cent); printers (27.9 per cent); newspaper publishers (24.6 per cent) and textiles and garments (21.6 per cent). A decline of 3.8 per cent in the value of industrial sales of the domestic manufacturing sector excluding oil and sugar was observed in the quarter under review compared with the previous quarter. Relatively large downward movements in the value of industrial sales were recorded in footwear (40.8 per cent); meat, poultry and fish (32.6 per cent); industrial gases and paints (32.5 per cent) and household appliances (28.3 per cent). But substantial increases were seen in cement (162.2 per cent); metal building materials (57.9 per cent); motor vehicles (38.8 per cent); boat building and repairs (37.8 per cent) and metal furniture (33.5 per cent). [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 21 Nov 83 p 3]

TESORO BEEF PRODUCTION--Tesoro Trinidad Agricultural Company plans to further increase its production of beef bulls to meet local demand. Following recent sales, the company reported favourable response by local butchers and cattle farmers. The demand is much greater than the company can supply at present. The company imported heifers from Texas to increase its stock at Los Bajos estate, Santa Flora. The company also supplies milk for daily use. The beef bulls which formed the base of the cattle rearing and beef production project were sold to local butchers who are demanding more. Cattle farmers in the South have also requested beef bulls for breeding purposes, according to company officials. Mr Farouk Mohammed, the company's Assistant Manager, in a report said: "Our plan to fulfil the need in the meat industry has been so far very encouraging and successful. Butchers from Princes Town and Penal have been our main buyers. They have voiced a request to buy as many as we can supply throughout the year." He said that the steers were two years' old and weighed 450 to 540 kilos. They were sold at \$2.50 per kilo live weight. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 18 Nov 83 p 12]